

AKIRA

11

TM

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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

CHAPTER 11

AKIRA RISING

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years ago, the bombs fell. In the old city, a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounter **Number 26**—a terrified child with telekinetic abilities. As a result of the encounter, **Kaneda** and his friend **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious organization led by a man known only as the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group, bent on stopping the Colonel's activities.

Among the resistance, **Kaneda** meets **Kay**, her brother, **Ryu** and Ryu's closest subordinate, who finds and nearly kills a spy from the Colonel's organization. They are commanded by **Nezu**—a government official—and a powerful religious leader with precognitive gifts—**Lady Miyako**.

There is a number of children under the Colonel's control, each

one possessing a unique psychic talent and identified by a number marked on their hand. Another of the children is **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's chief medical advisor, called **Doctor**, subjects **Tetsuo** to painful electronic and chemical experiments. This awakens tremendous telepathic potential in the boy, who is dubbed **Number 41**.

Unfortunately, a monstrous side of Tetsuo's nature also appears. With the ability to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree.

Eventually, he murders one of Kaneda's closest friends, then attacks **Kaneda**. This allows the **Colonel** to capture **Kaneda** and **Kay**.

Tetsuo finds it intolerable that **Akira** may be more powerful, and forces the **Doctor** to tell him where **Akira** is. **Tetsuo** is determined to seek **Akira** out and attacks the **Colonel** when he tries to stop him. The psychic children, like **Lady Miyako**, fear Akira's power. They are worried about the disaster **Tetsuo** may unleash, and use their talents to help **Kay** and **Kaneda** escape. "Aided" by the same spy Ryu's

lieutenant left for dead, they pursue **Tetsuo** to the Olympic site, where **Ryu** and his lieutenant are working undercover.

The **Colonel** tries to prevent a disaster by unleashing his troops and scientists. A fight ensues. **Tetsuo** is attacked, but not harmed. Meanwhile, Akira's chamber temperature rises, apparently responding to Tetsuo's psychic energy.

Kaneda, **Kay** and the spy steal one of the army's flying platforms, but are unable to control it. The result is while trying to reach Akira's chamber, the unlikely trio fly by an elevator platform carrying **Tetsuo**, **Ryu** and his lieutenant. The trio barely manages to leap off the platform before it crashes. Now grounded, **Kay** forces the spy to go his own way. **Kaneda** and she stumble across Akira's chamber. Meanwhile, the spy corners Ryu's lieutenant on an elevator platform. Suddenly, intense cold from Akira's chamber consumes the site meaning **Akira** is dangerously close to consciousness. The **Colonel** orders his troops to retreat. As **Tetsuo** reaches Akira's resting place, the cryogenic chamber begins to crack from within.







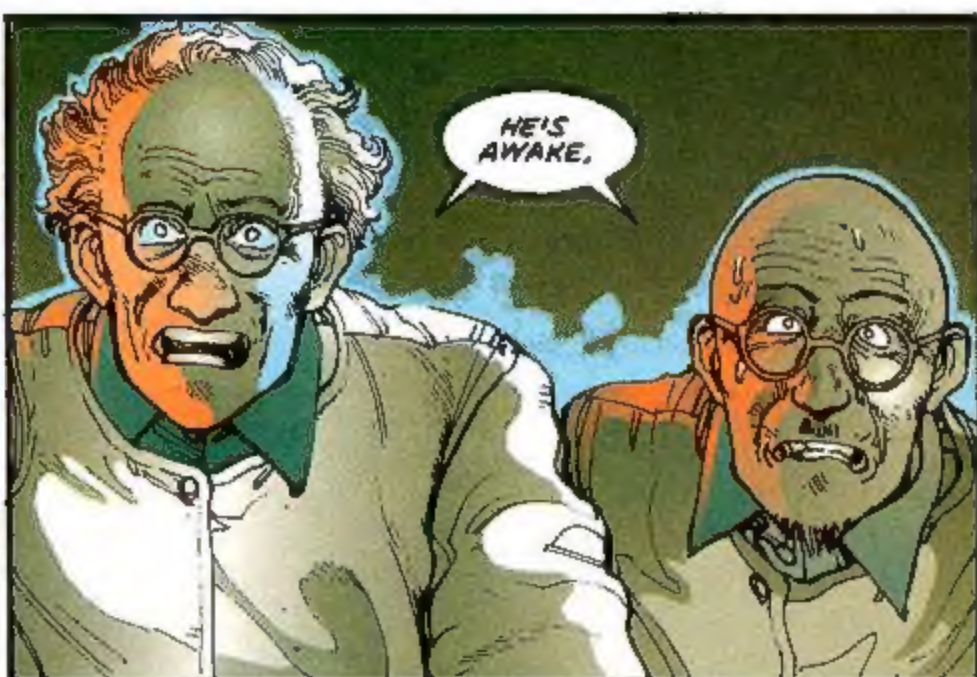




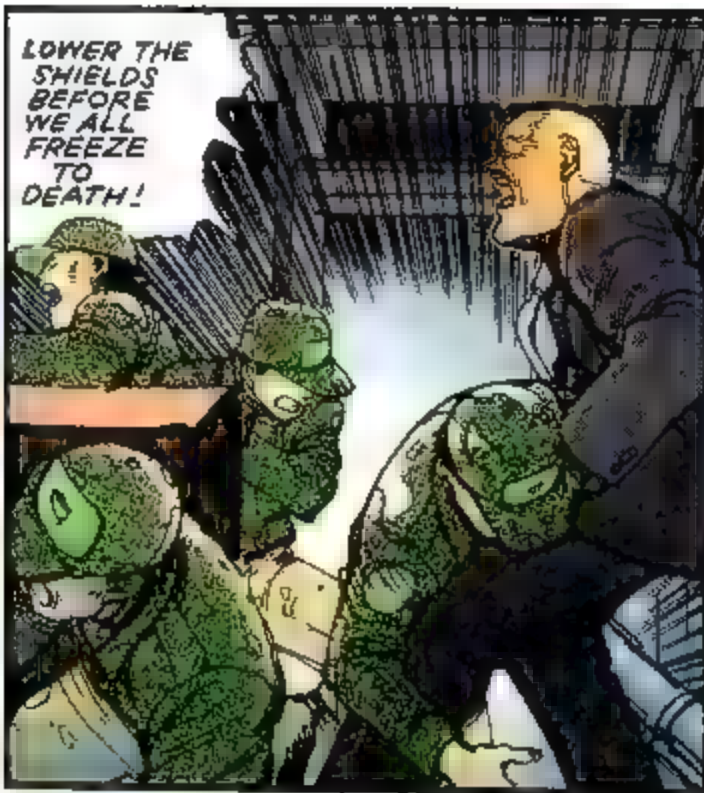
ARE YOU
AKIRA?!

KRAKLE

YOW!







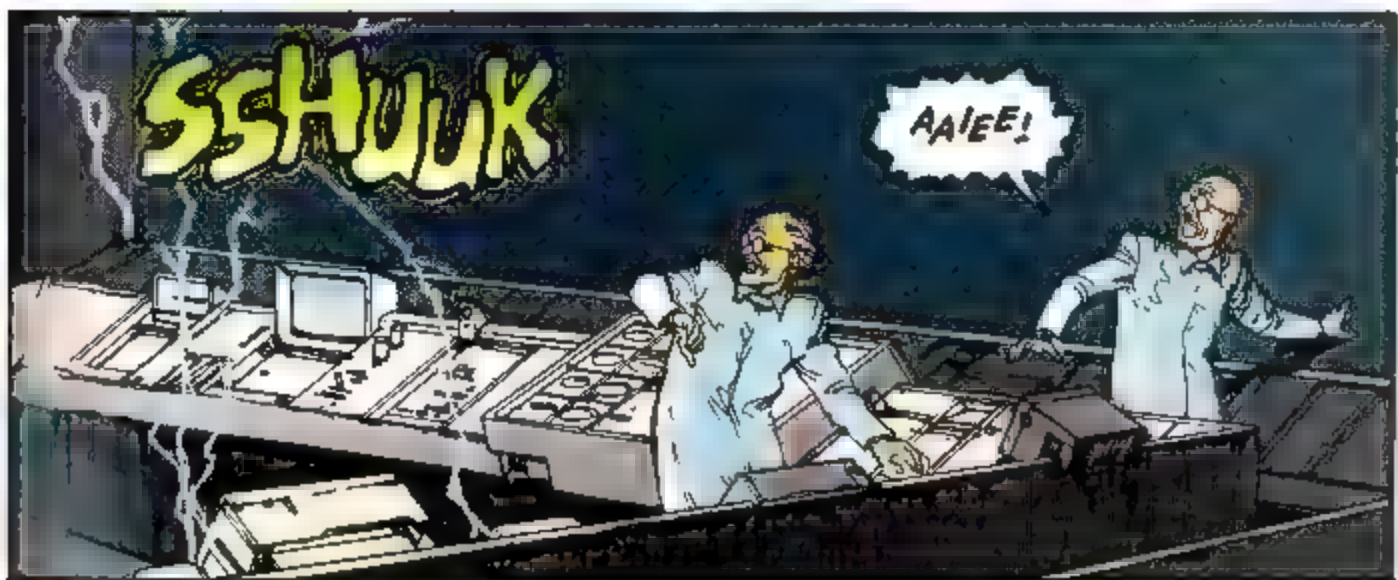
LOWER THE
SHIELDS
BEFORE
WE ALL
FREEZE
TO
DEATH!



BUT, COLONEL,
THE DOCTOR
IS STILL
OUTSIDE!

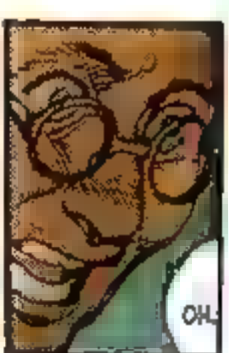
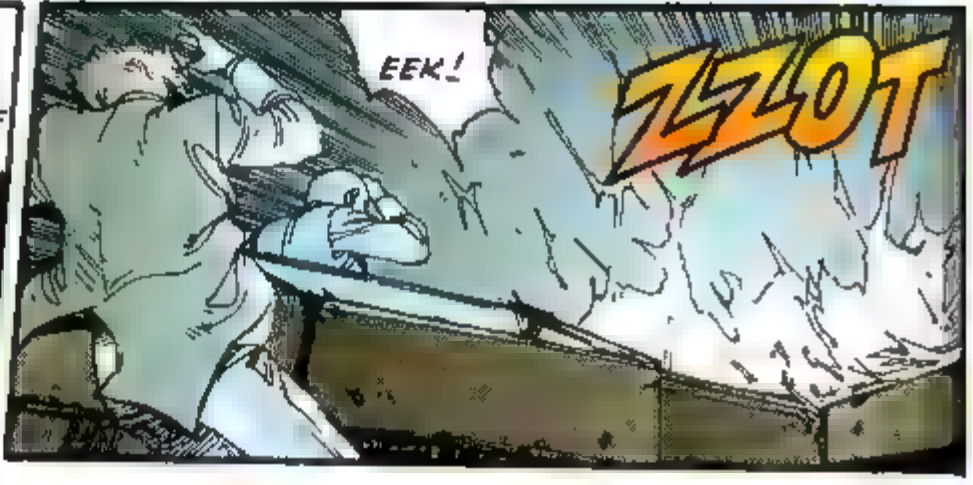


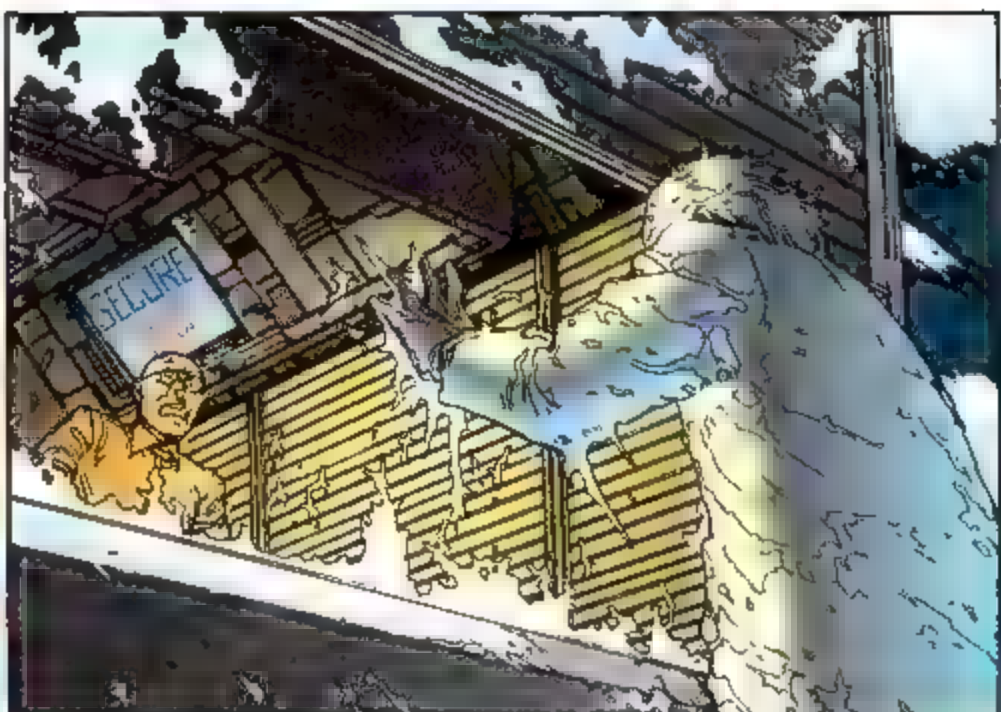
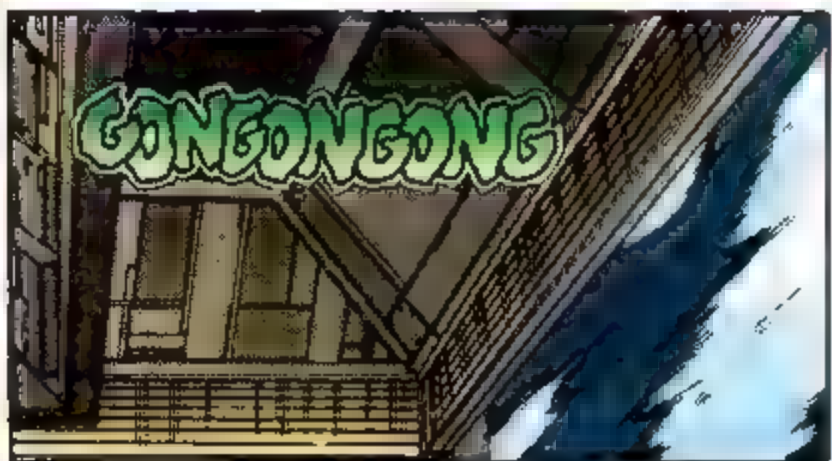
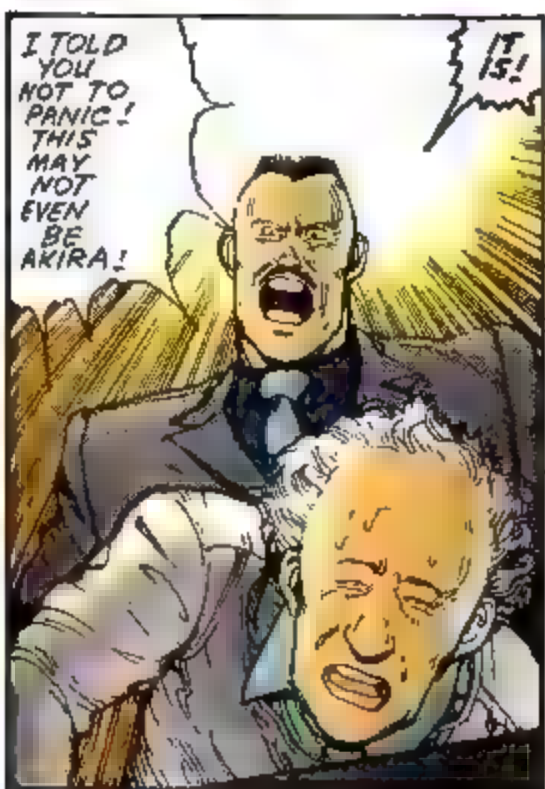
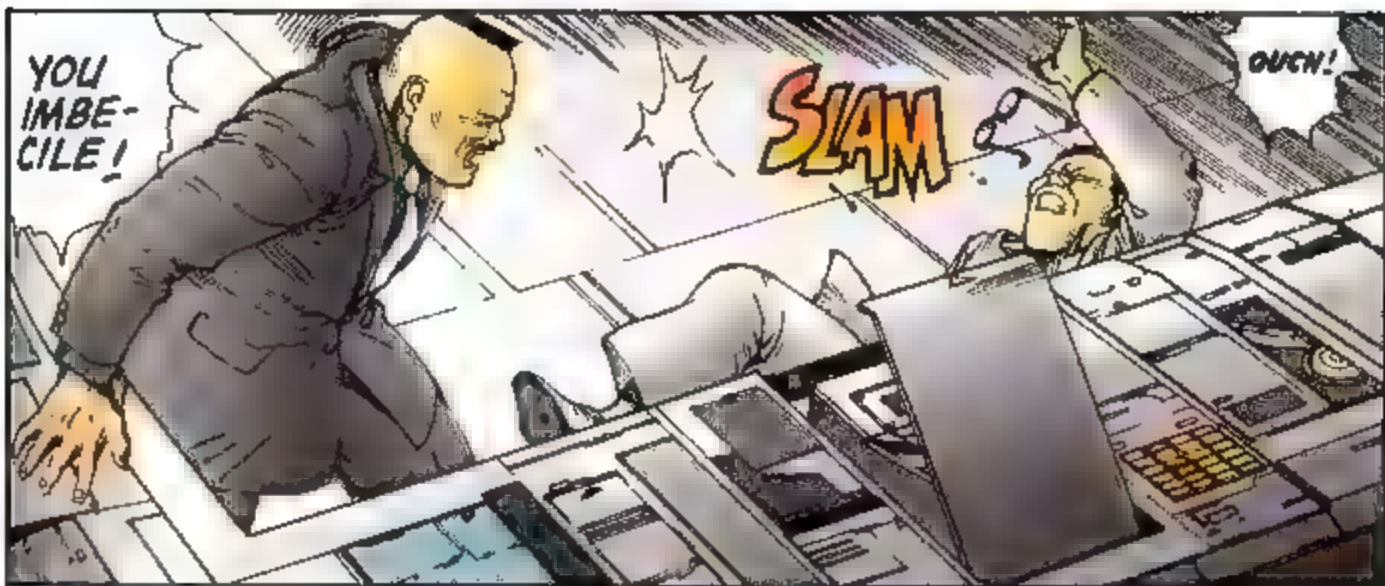
WHAT--?!



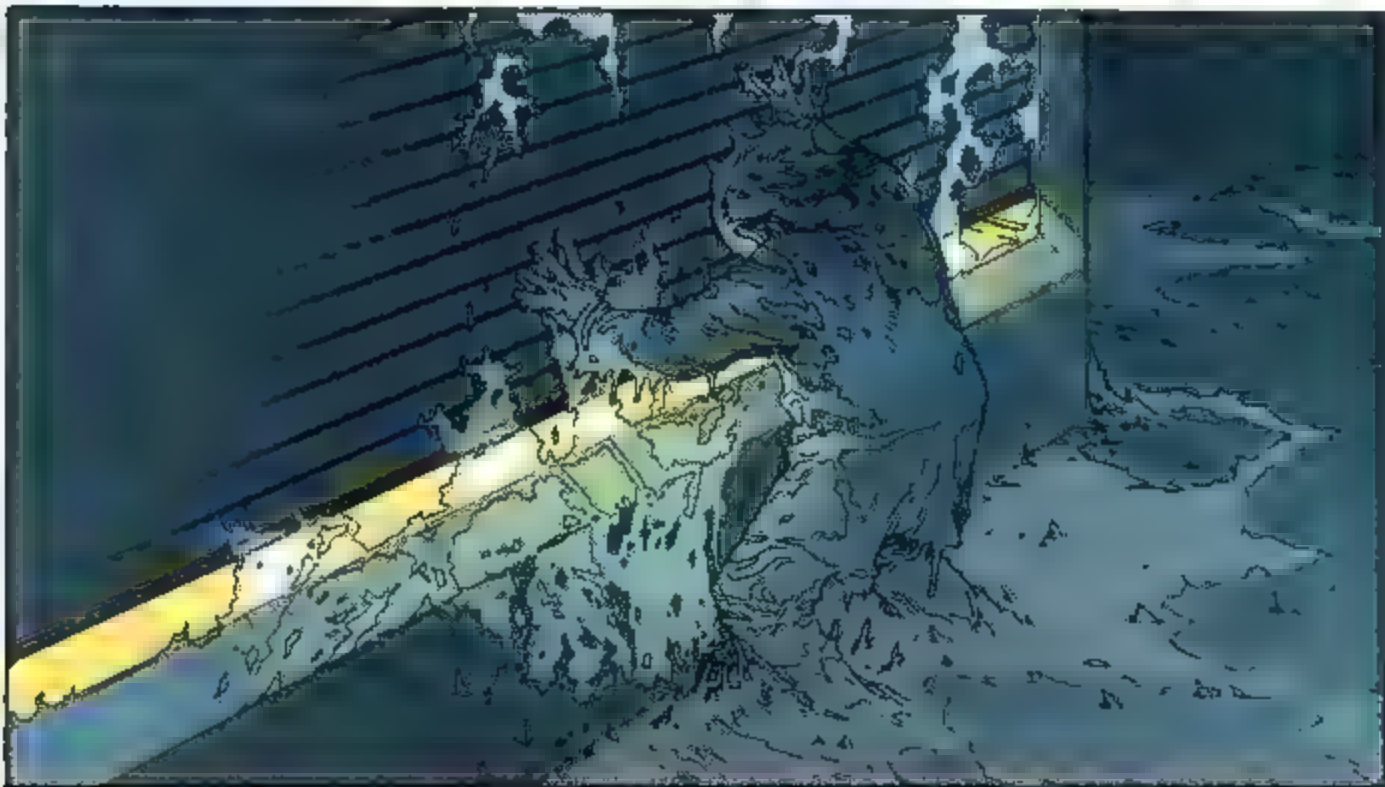
SSHUUK

AAIEE!



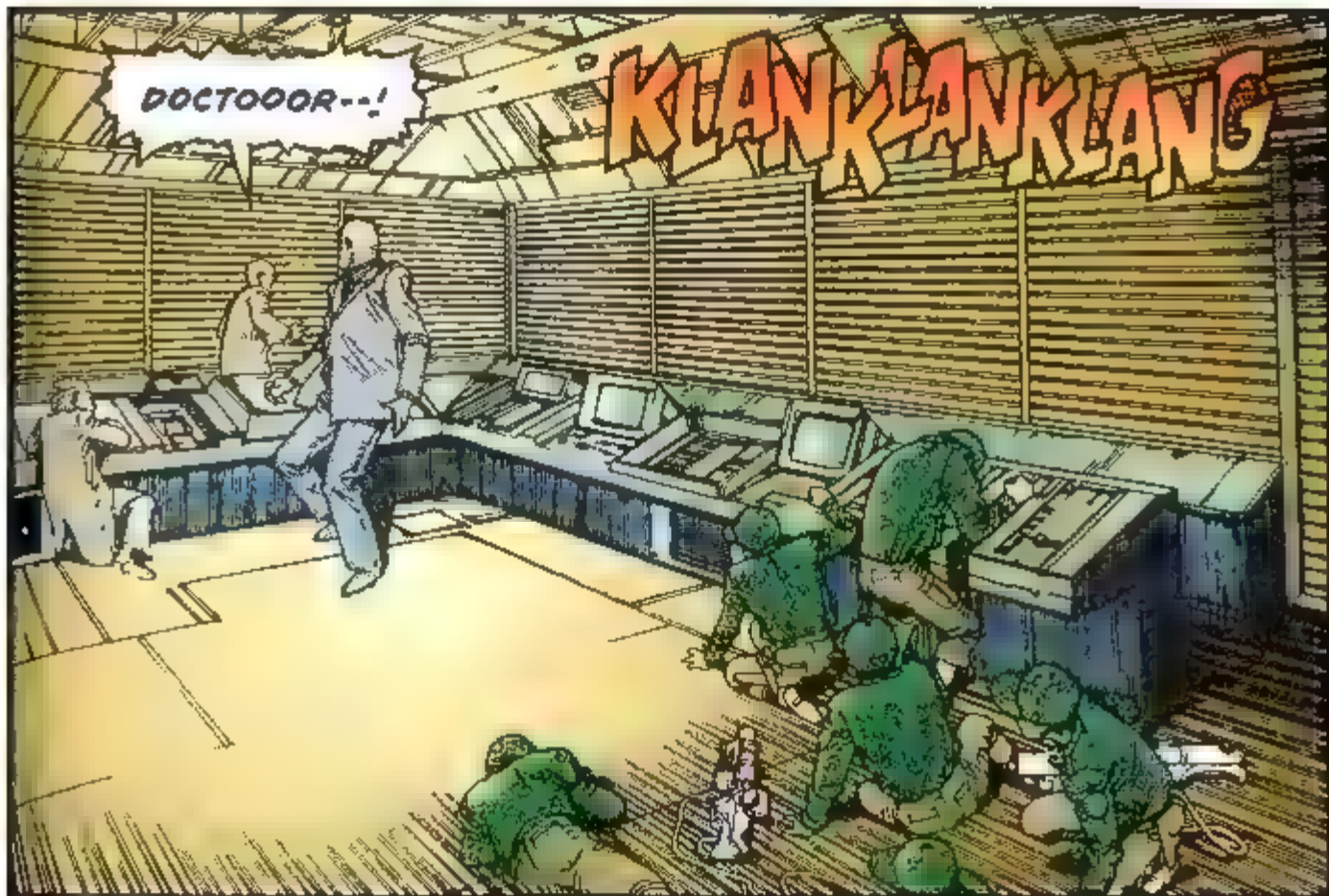


SHOOOOO

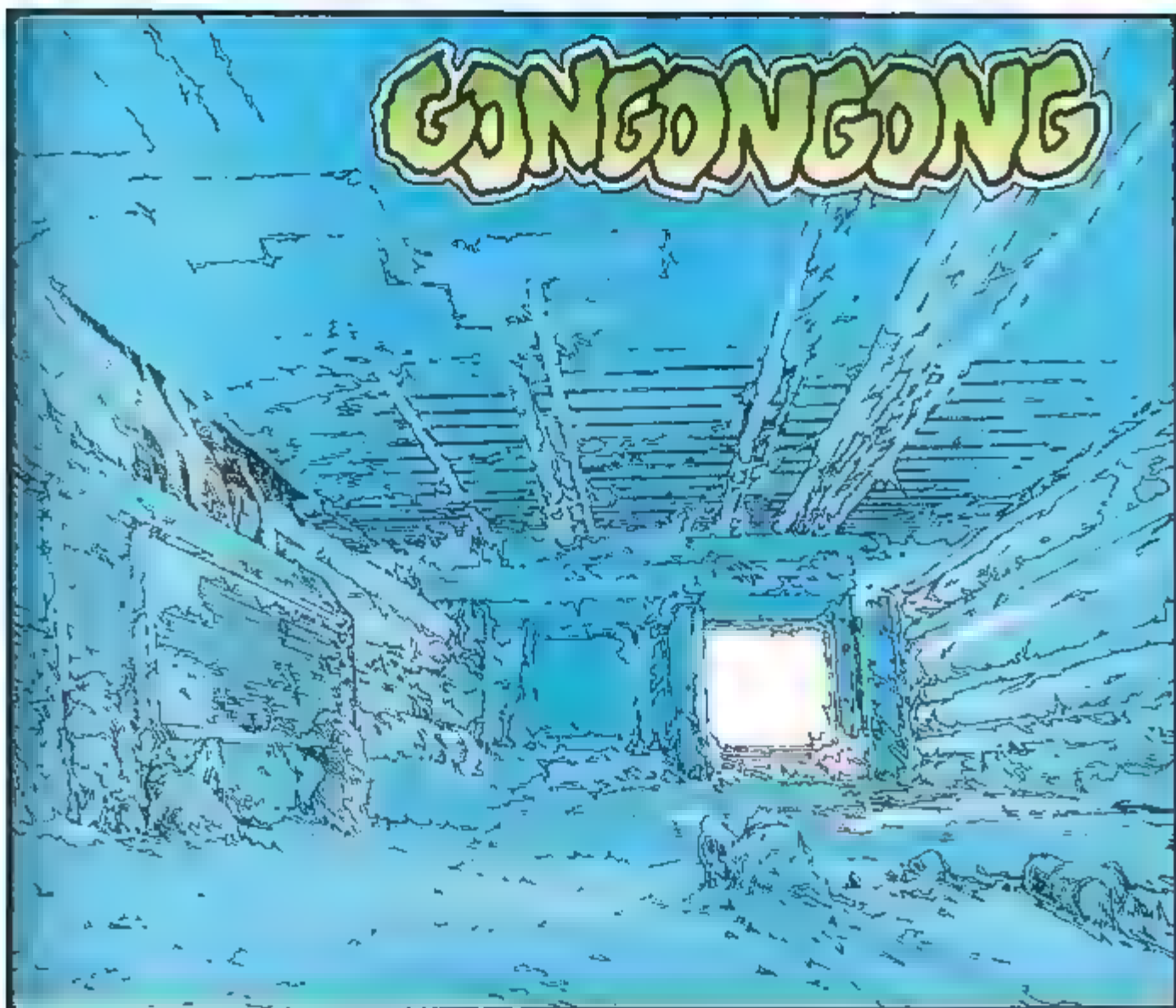


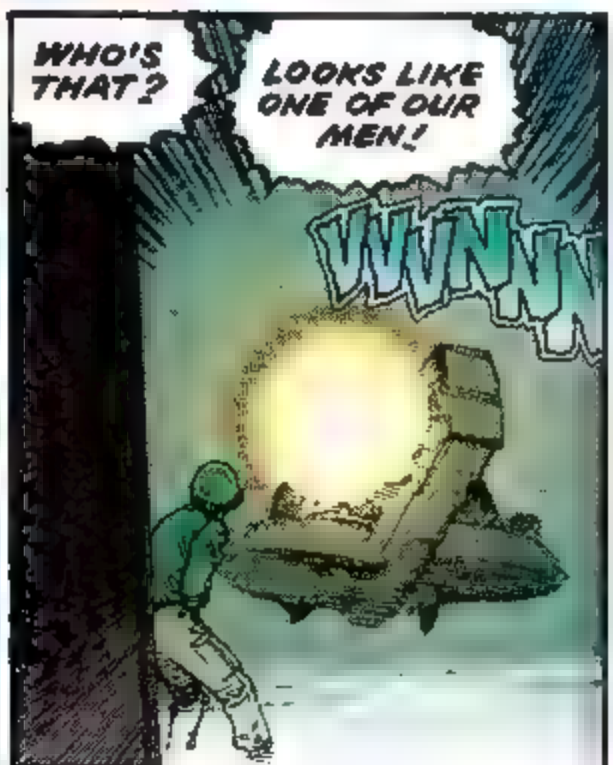
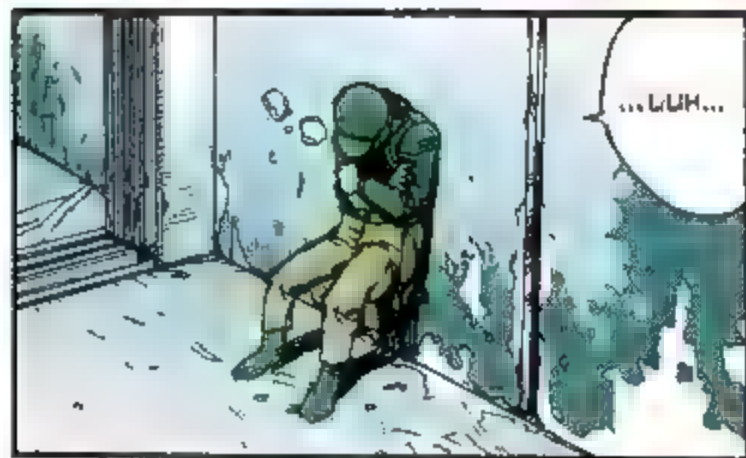
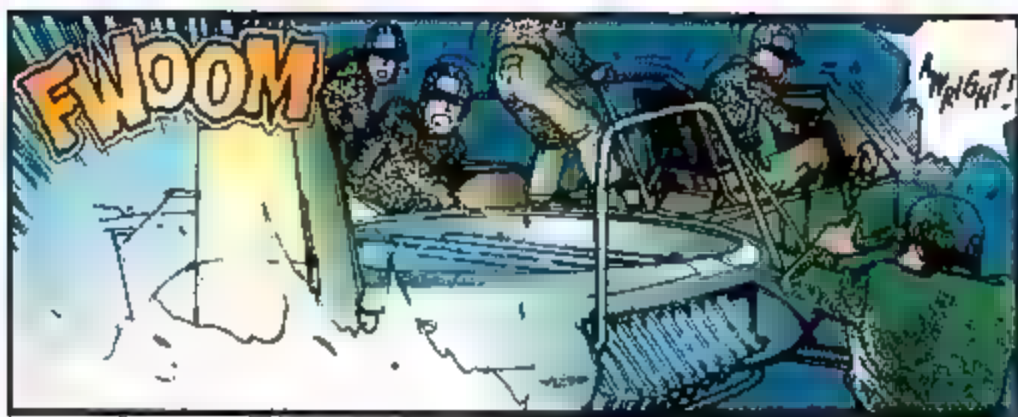
DOCTOR--!

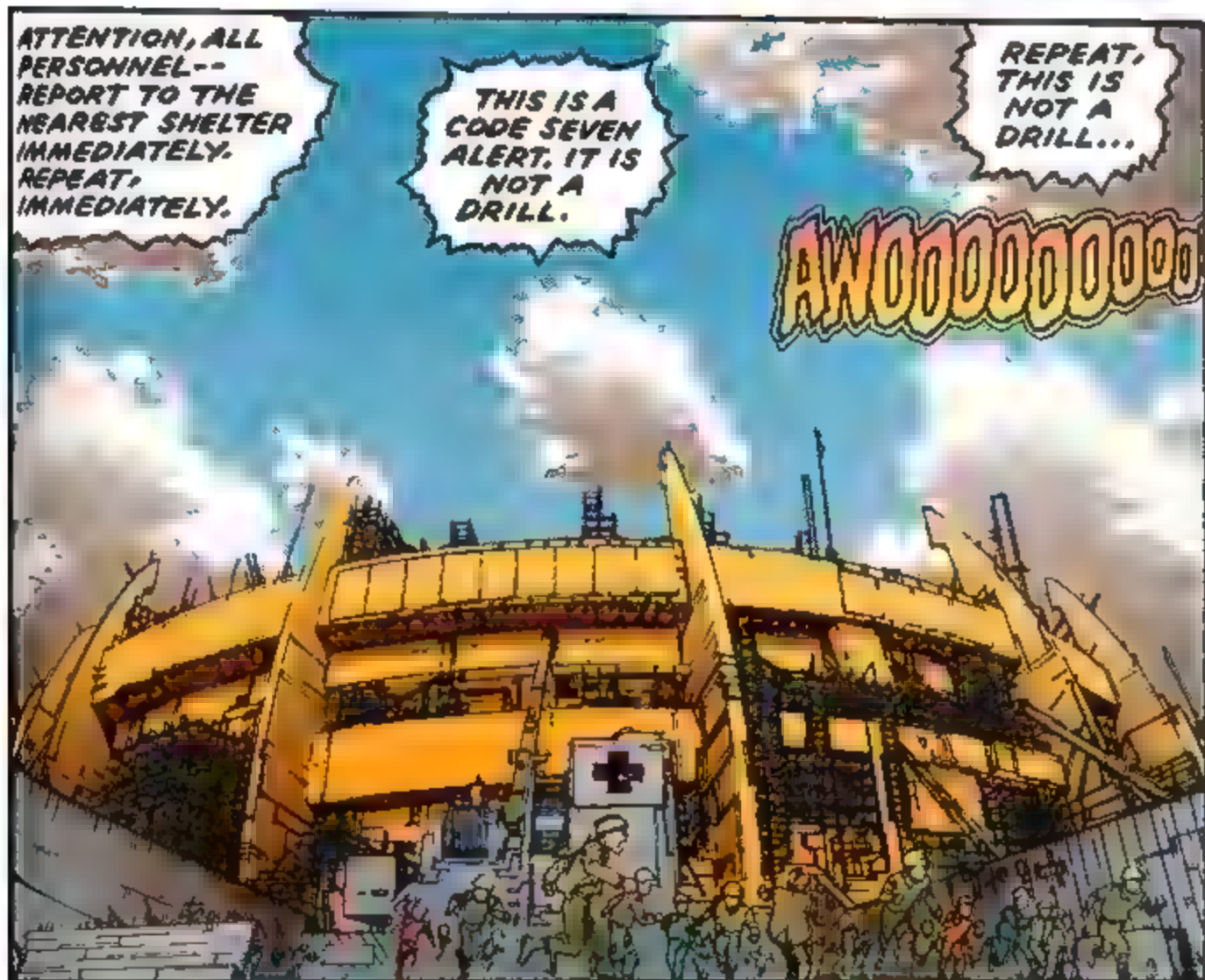
KLANKLANKLANG



GONGGONGGONG







AROOOOOOOOOO

WOK

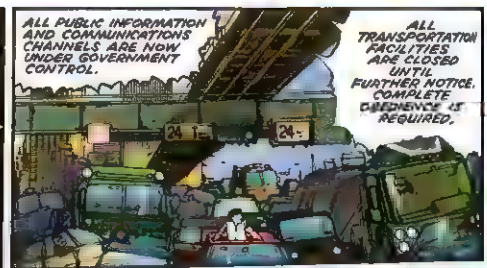
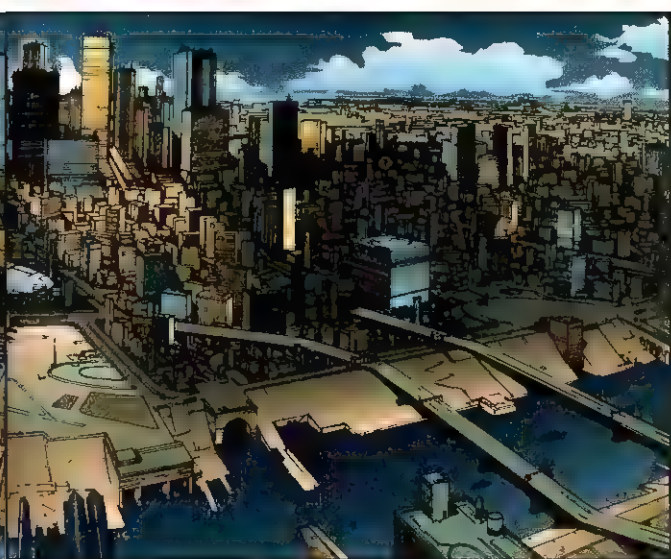
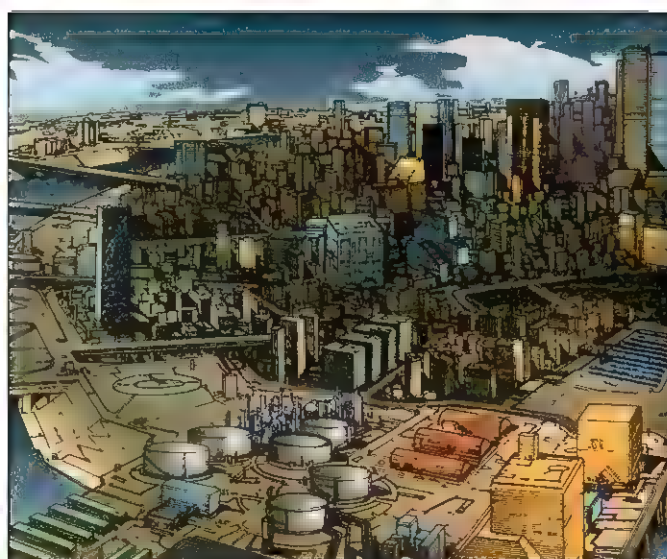
YOU HEAR THAT? A CODE SEVEN ALERT--IT MEANS THAT WHATEVER'S UP, THE BRASS RANKS IT AS WORSE THAN A NUCLEAR ATTACK

GONG

WE'RE MOVING!

BUT I THINK FOR THE MOMENT WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH TO SETTLE WHAT'S BETWEEN US.

GONG



WHERE'S
MR. NEZU?

GET LADY
MIYAKO
TO
ONE
OF
THE
UNDERGROUND
SHELTERS!

TOKKA TOKKA TOKKA

TOKKA

...SO...

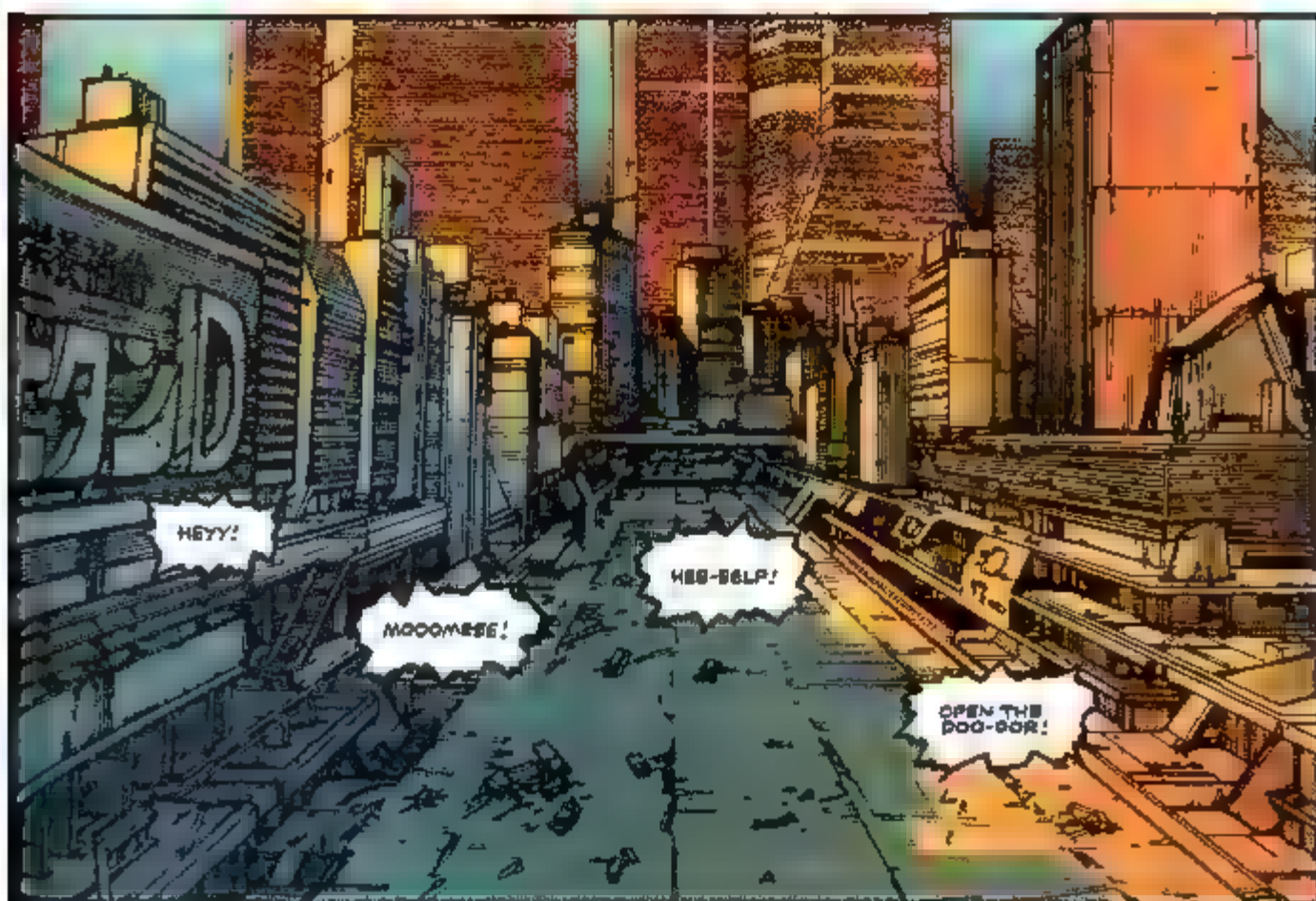
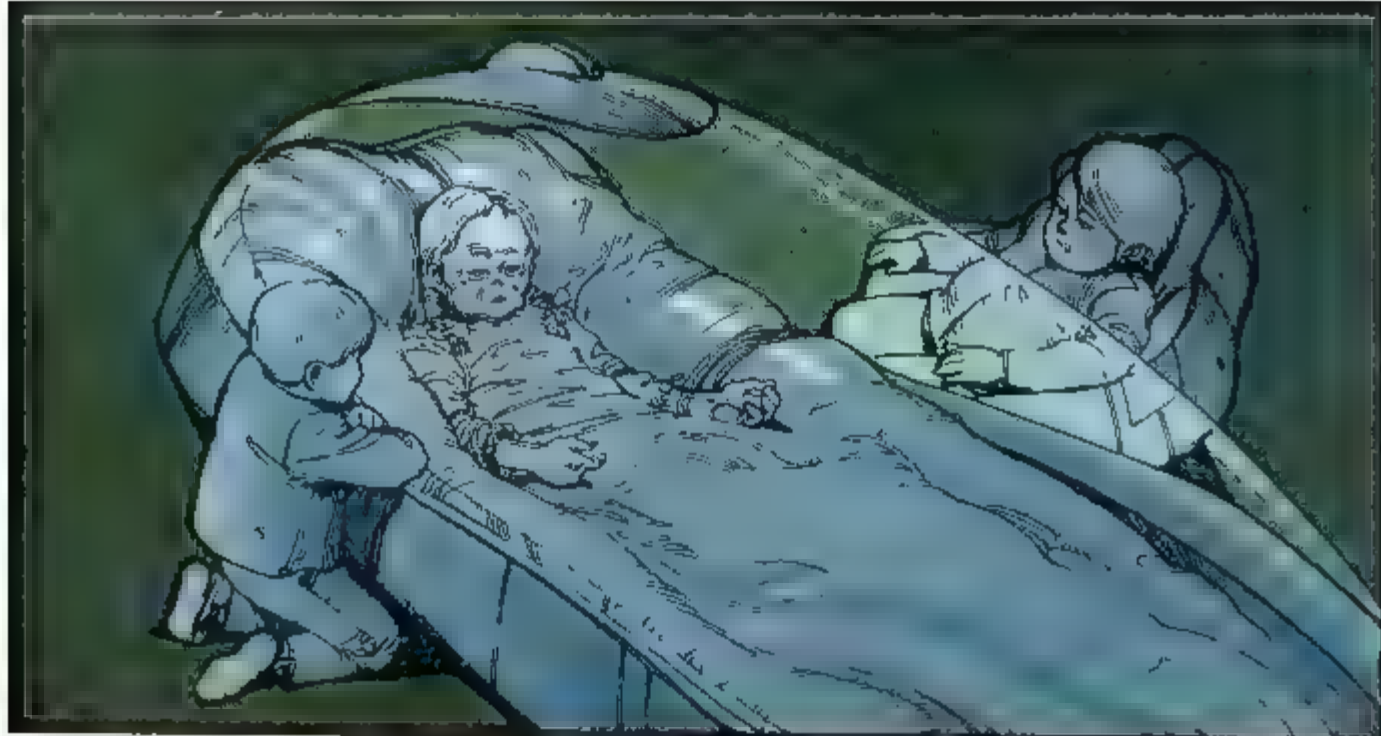
NO ONE COULD
STAND IN THE WAY
OF WHAT WAS
DESTINED TO
BE...

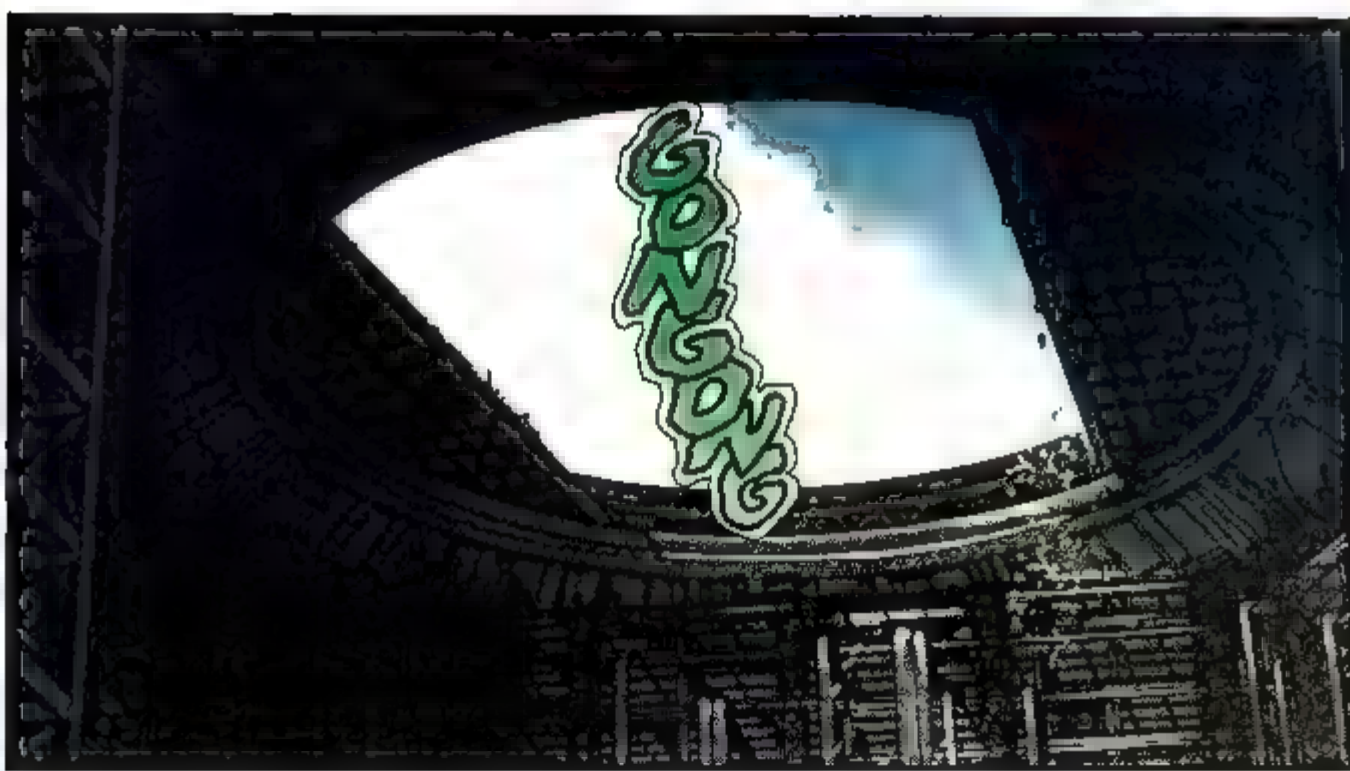
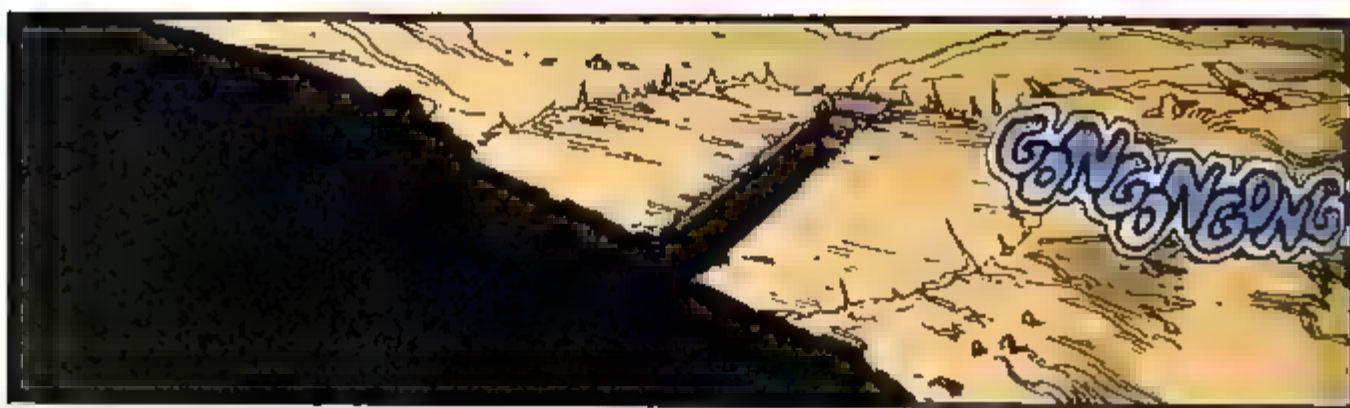
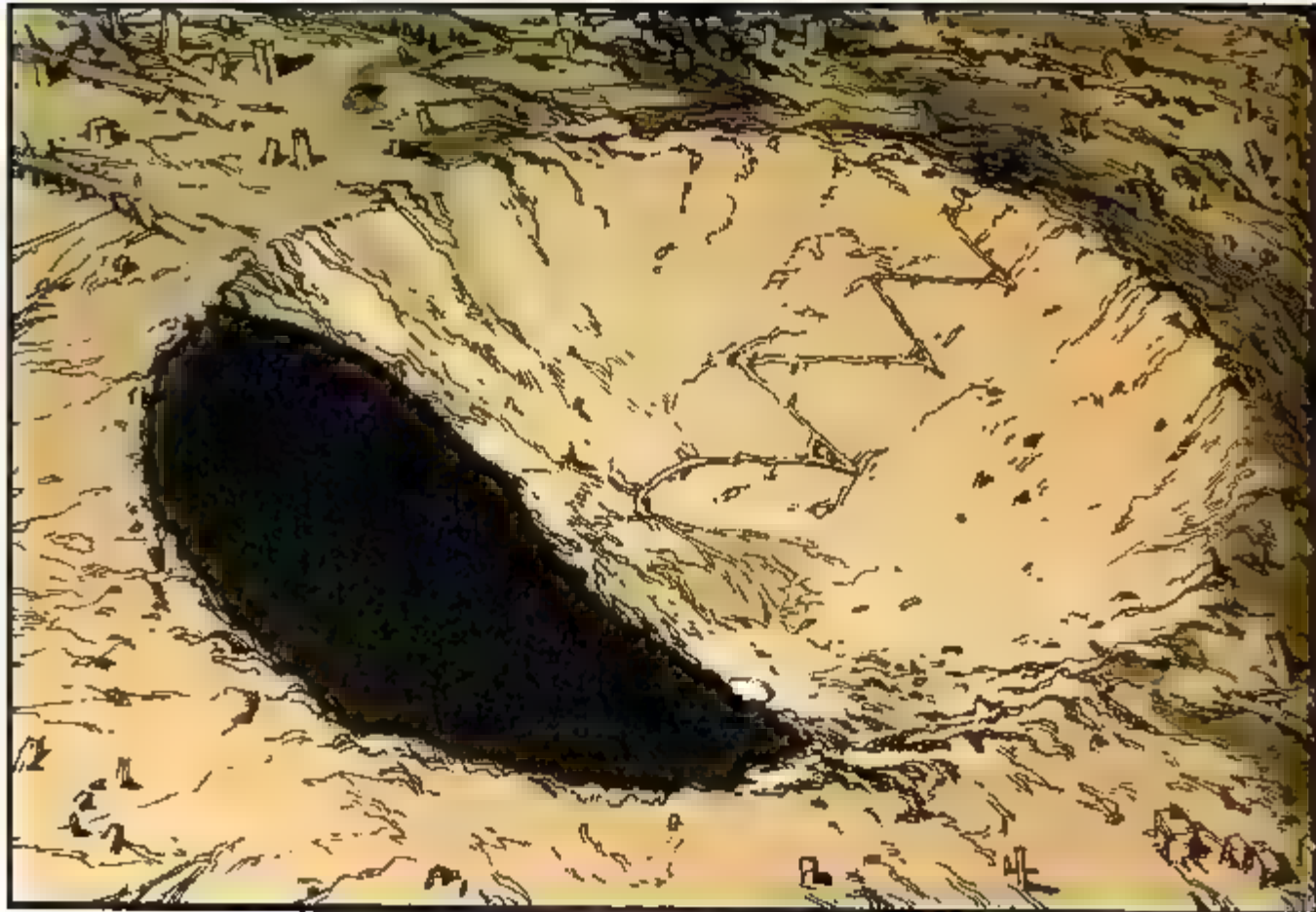
THEN...
AKIRA
HAS
ALREADY
--?!

WE MAY
STAY HERE
AWHILE...
BEFORE
DISASTER
REACHES
ITS
HAND
TOWARD
US...

MR. NEZU...
LADY
MIYAKO,
WE
MUST
LEAVE
HERE!

SILENCE,
FOOL!







GONG
ONG
ONG

COLONEL--
LOOK!



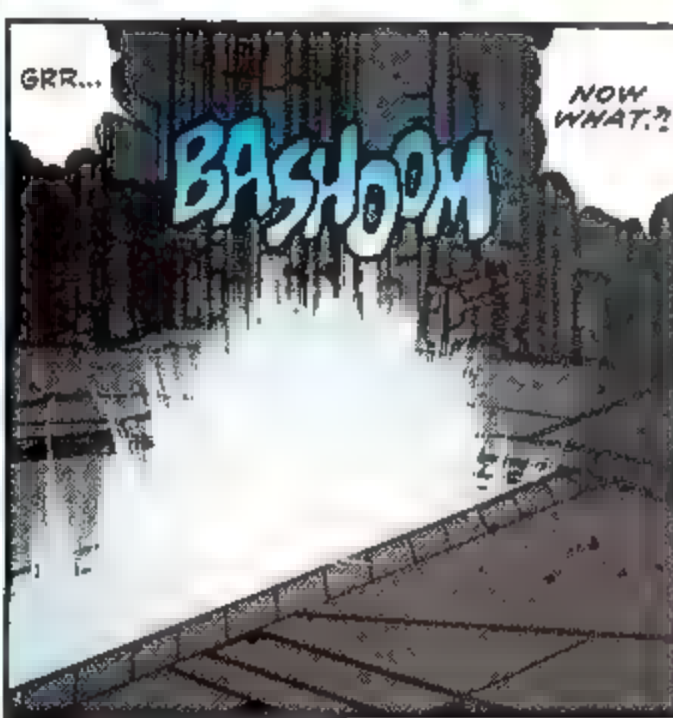
THE MAIN
HATCH IS
OPENING!



IMPOSSIBLE!
NO ONE'S BEEN
NEAR THOSE
CONTROLS.



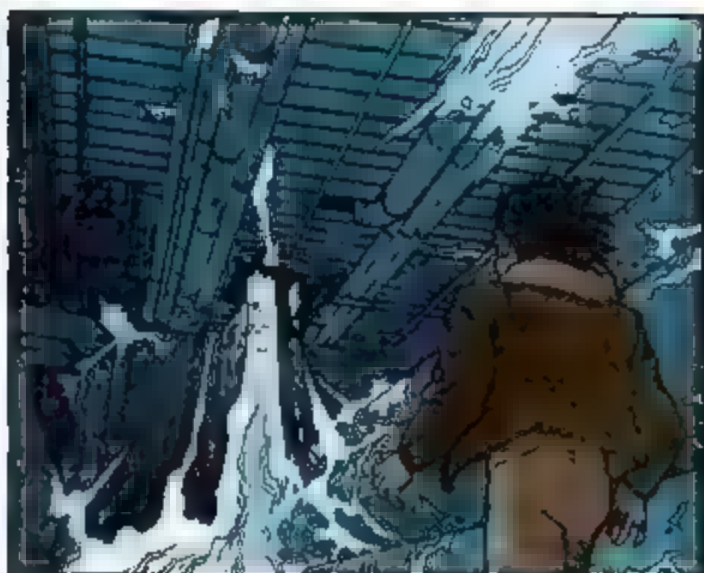
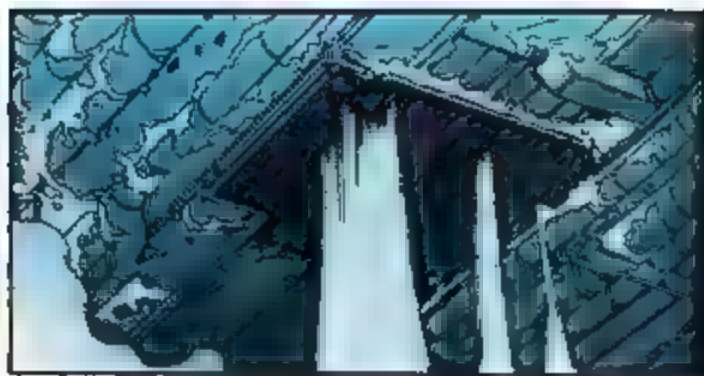
I... I'M SORRY,
SIR. PERHAPS
THE ELECTRICAL
DISCHARGE
CAUSED BY THE
EXTREME COLD
HAS SHORTED
OUT THE
CONTROLS.



GRR...

BASHOOM

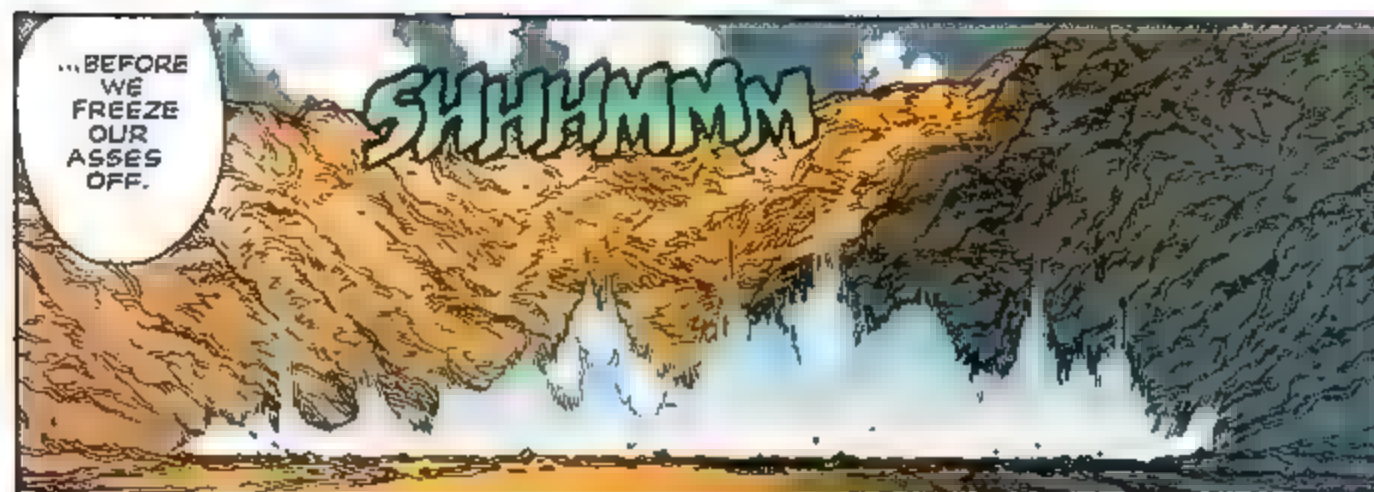
NOW
WHAT?!



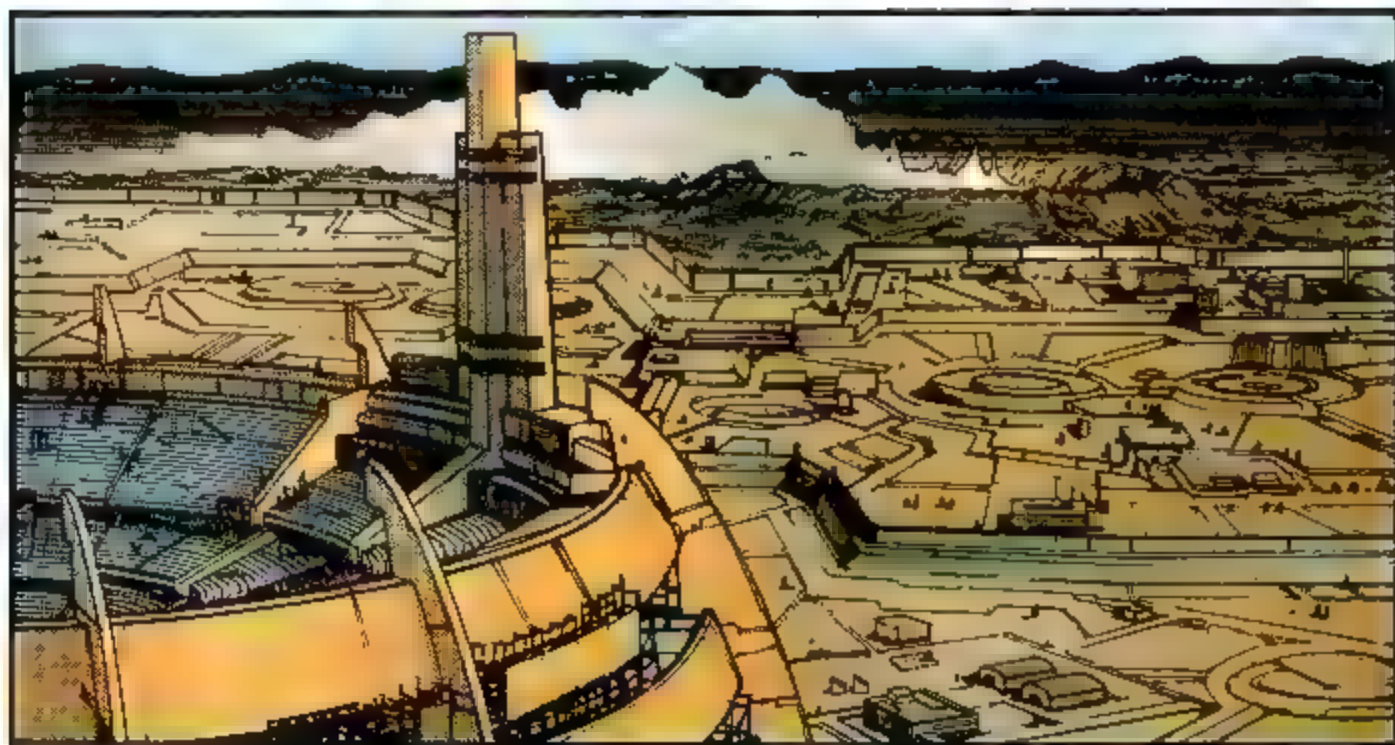
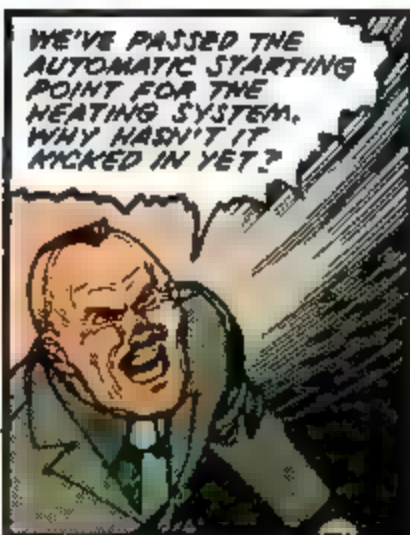
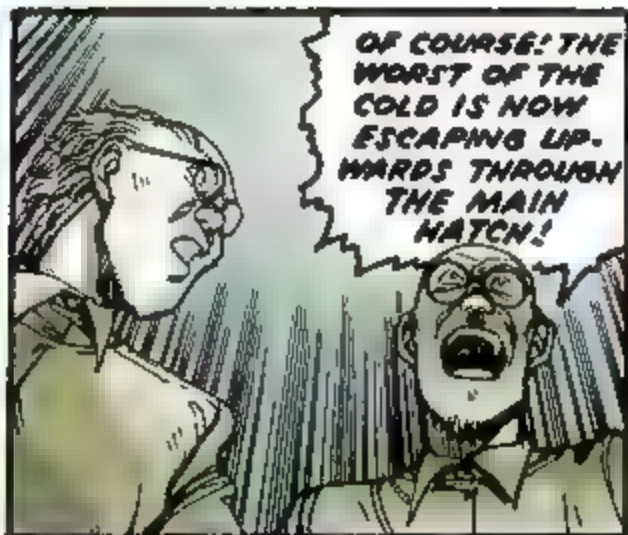
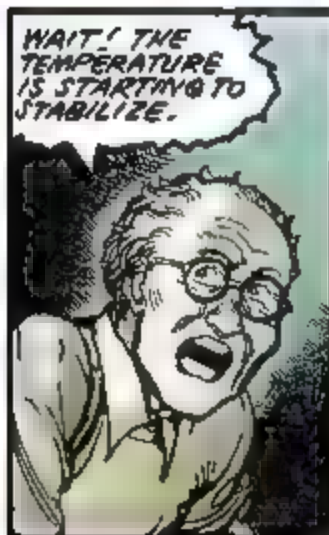
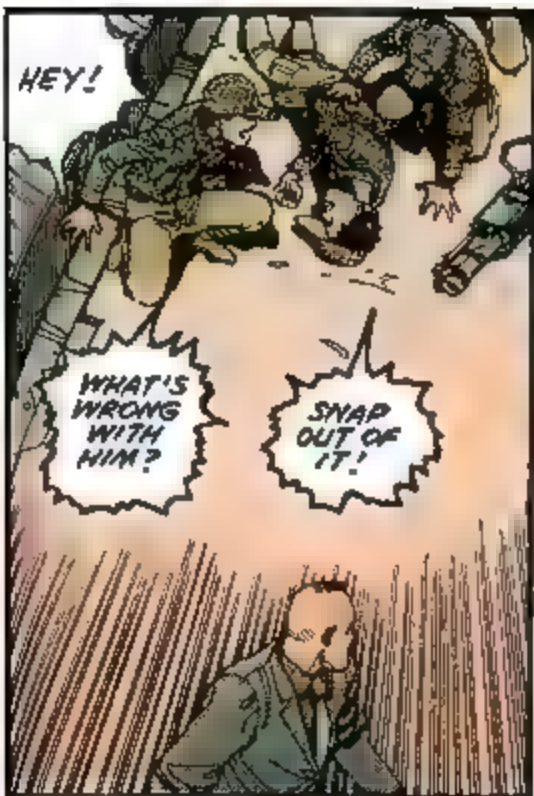
I NEVER
EXPECTED
TO FIND
A DIRECT
EXIT
WAY
DOWN
HERE.

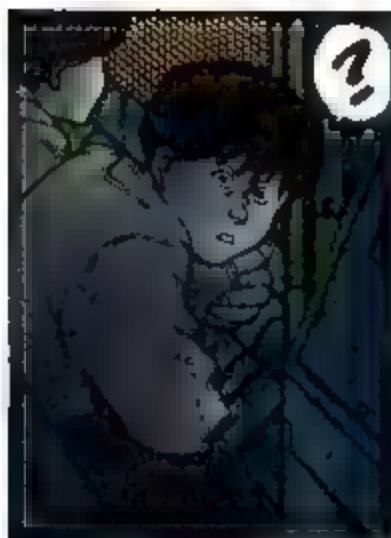
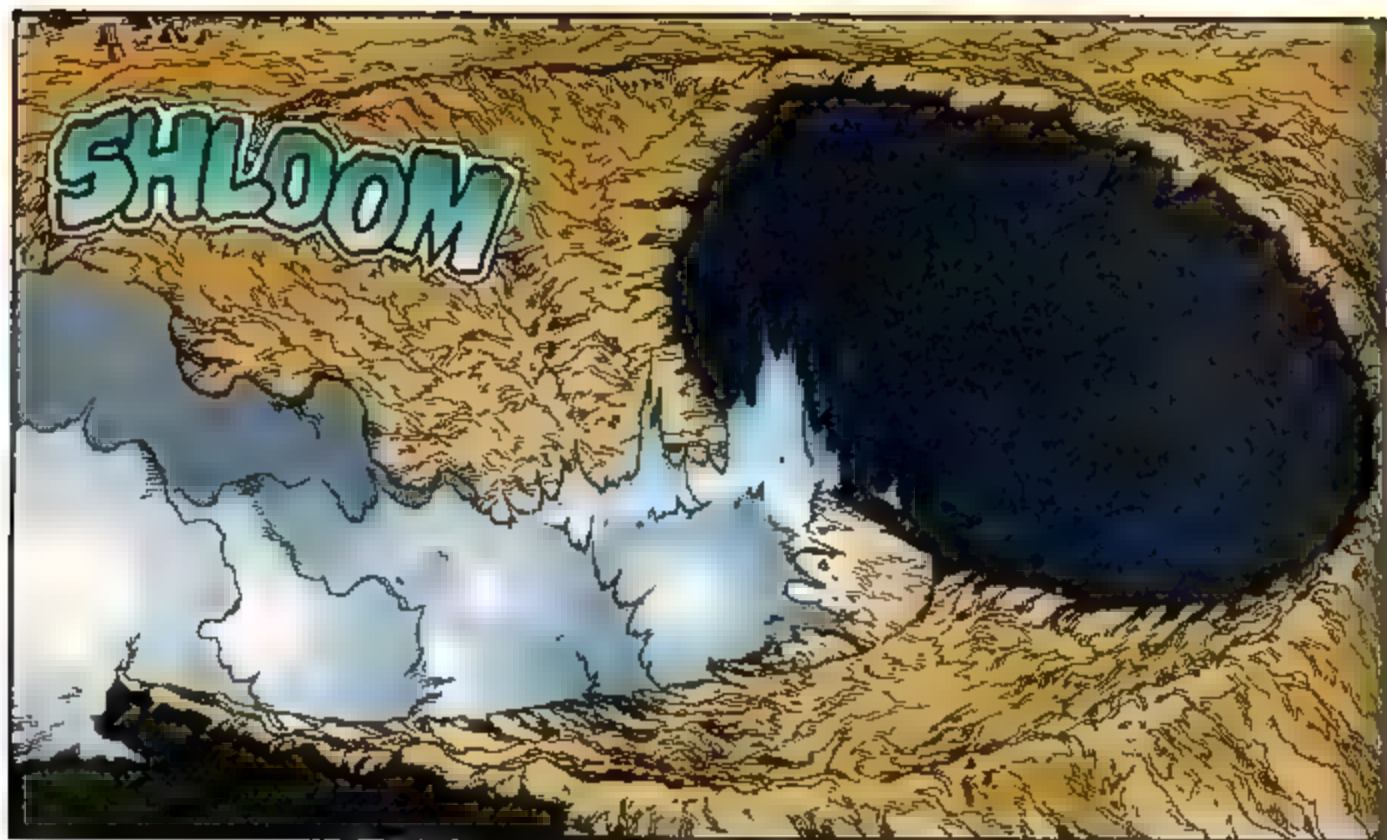


DON'T
JUST
STAND
THERE,
LET'S
USE
IT...



...BEFORE
WE
FREEZE
OUR
ASSES
OFF.





IT'S
CLOSING---!

HOOO!

GONG

ONG

ONG

GONG

ONG

UWAAGH!

WUUNNN

WE'VE
LOST
THE
RIGHT
ENGINE!

DON'T
QUIT
ON
US
NOW,
BABY!

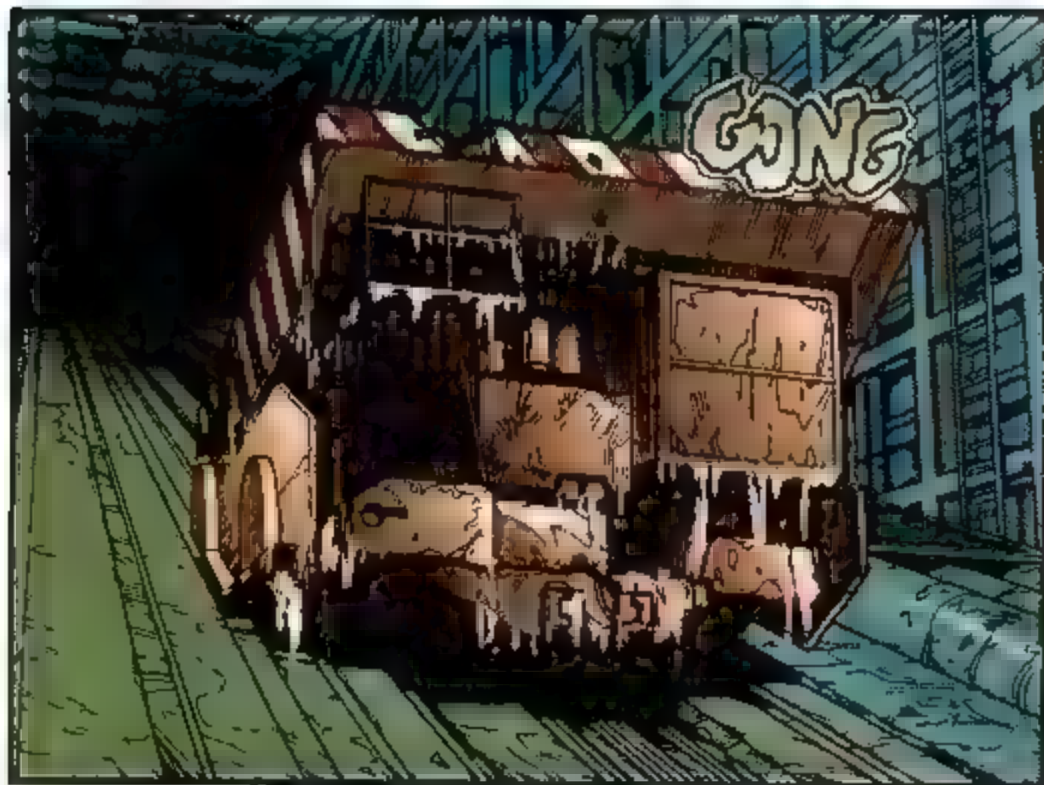
HOLD
HER
STEADY!

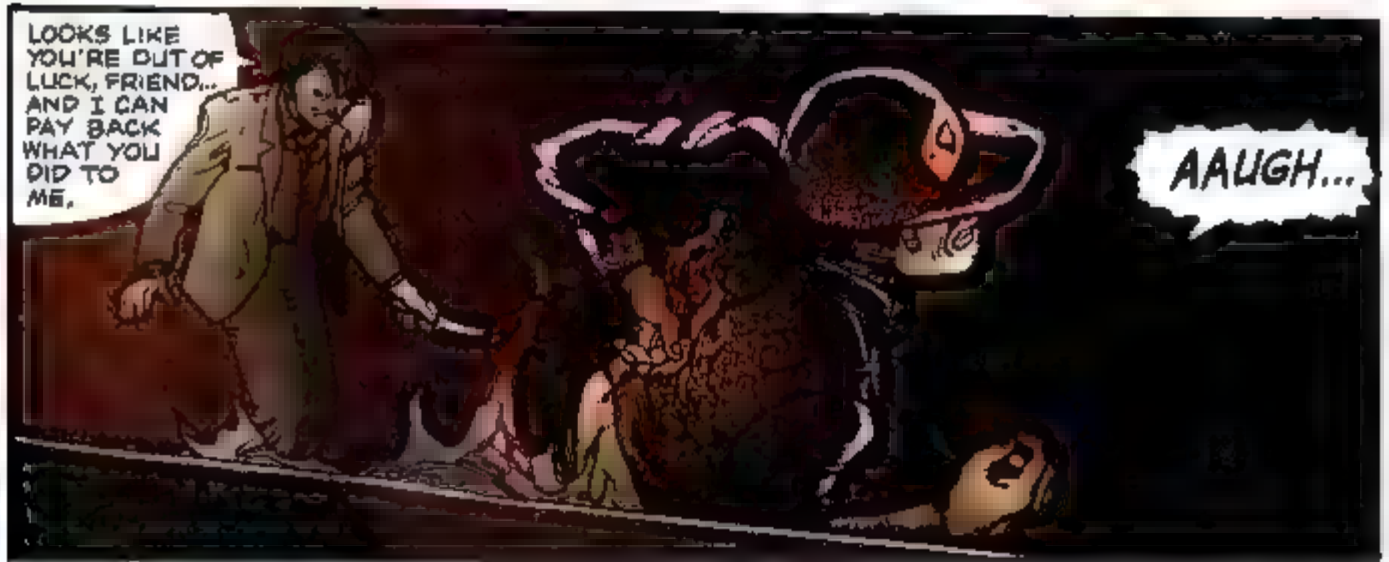
SHIT!

GONG

ONG

WUUNNNNN





HE CUT
UP ONE
OF OUR
MEN!

W-WAIT!

THIS
ISN'T
HOW
IT
LOOKS--!

BLAM

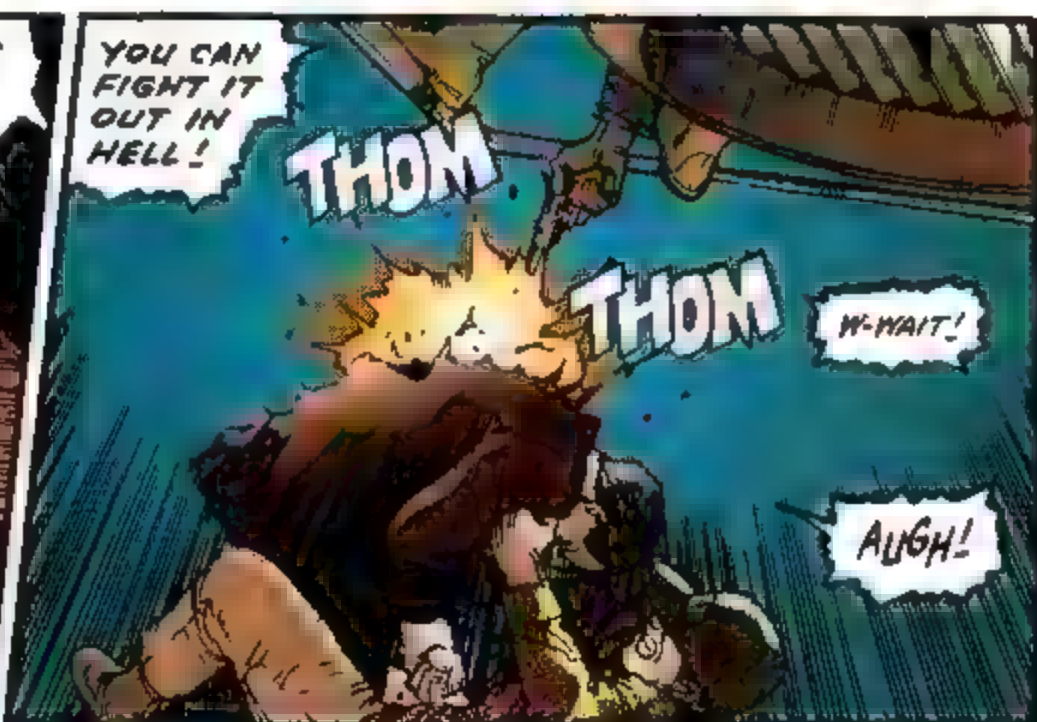
BLAM

BLAM

CAN YOU
MAKE IT
UP HERE?

STEADY!

HURRY! WE'RE
ALMOST OUT OF
POWER. IF THE
ENGINE GOES,
WE'RE STUCK
HERE!

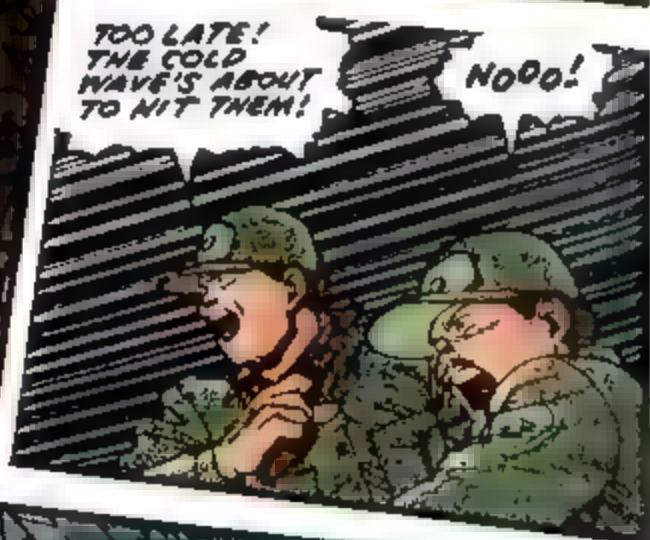




THAT GUY'S
A FRIEND OF
MINE!

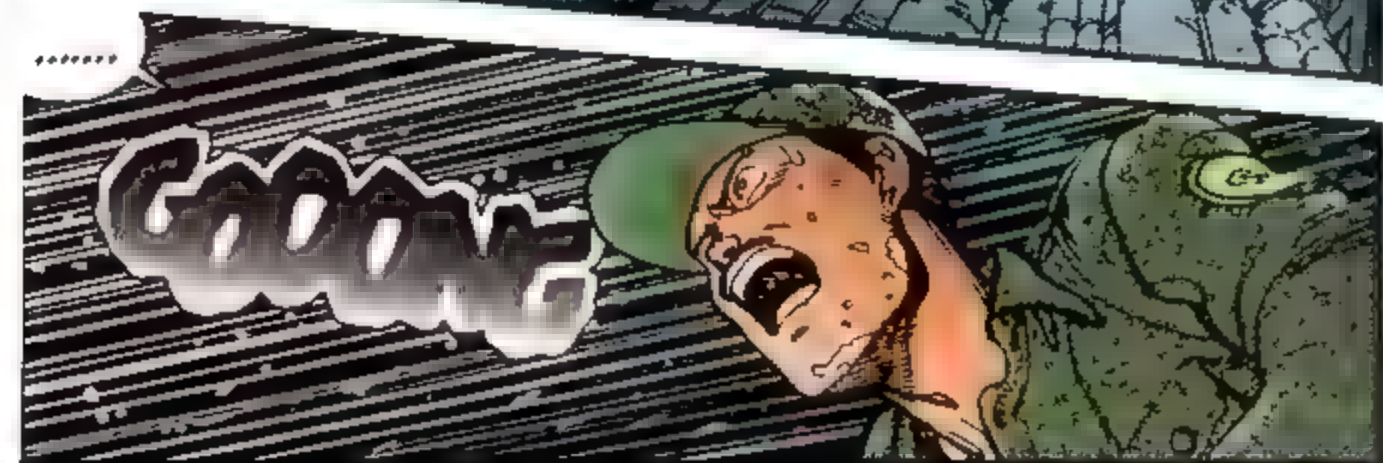
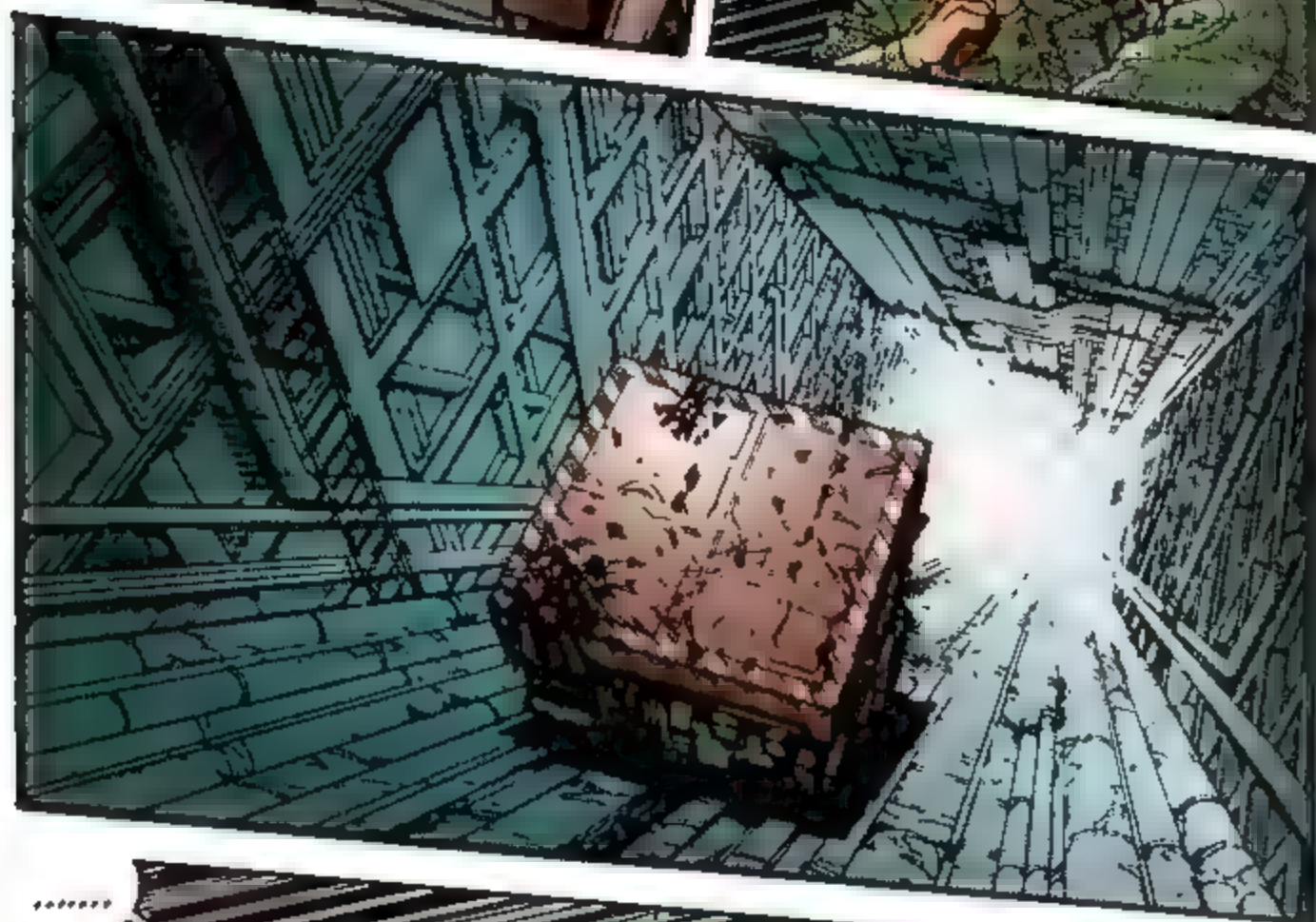


GO
BACK
FOR
HIM!

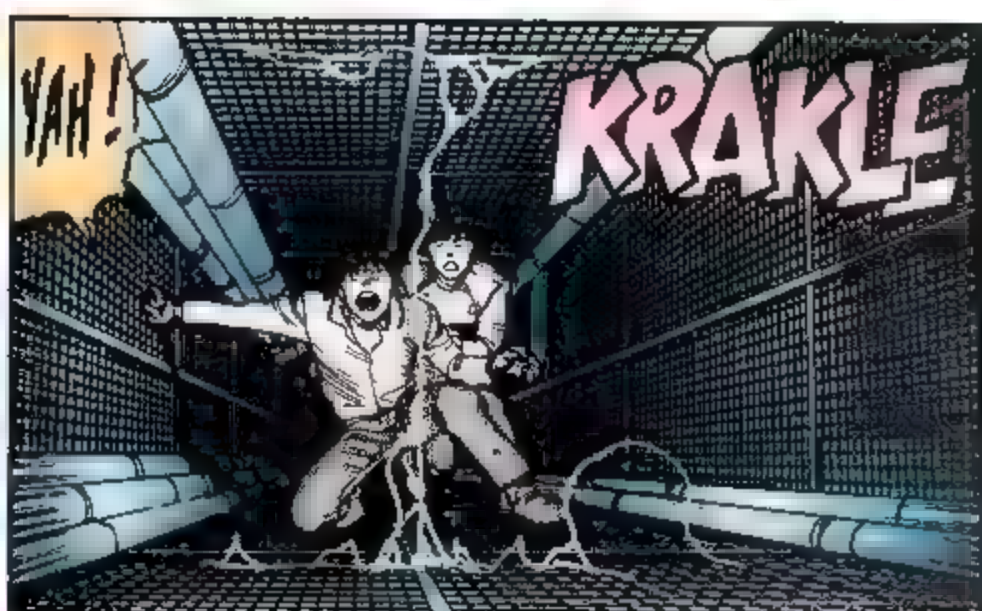
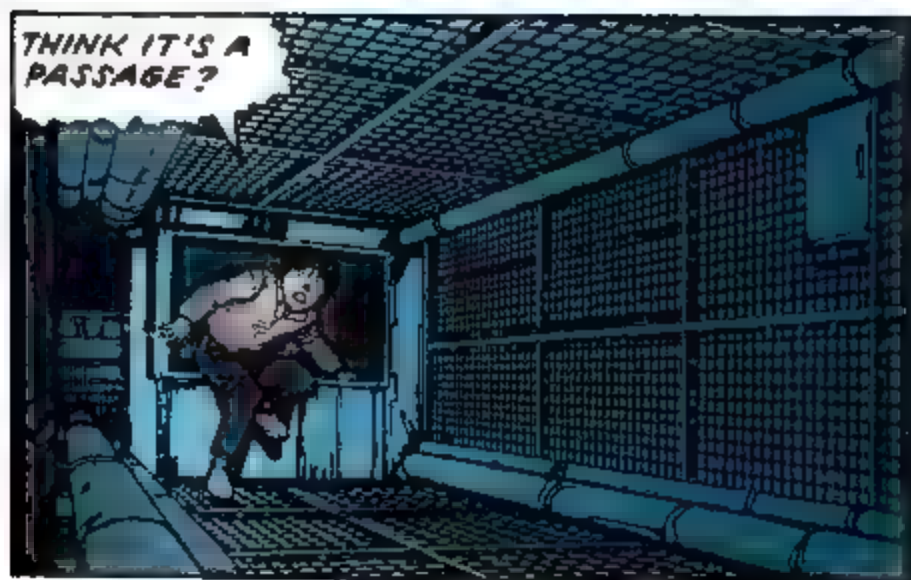
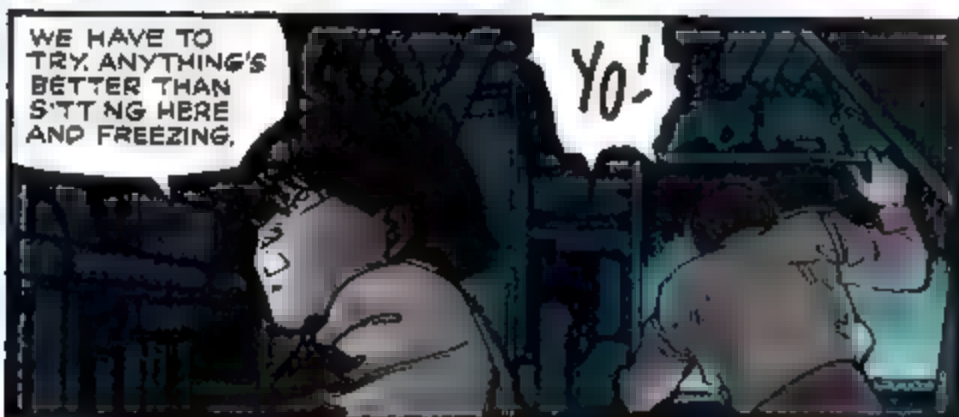


TOO LATE!
THE COLD
WAVE'S ABOUT
TO HIT THEM!

NOOO!



GODDAM!





WHAAT?!

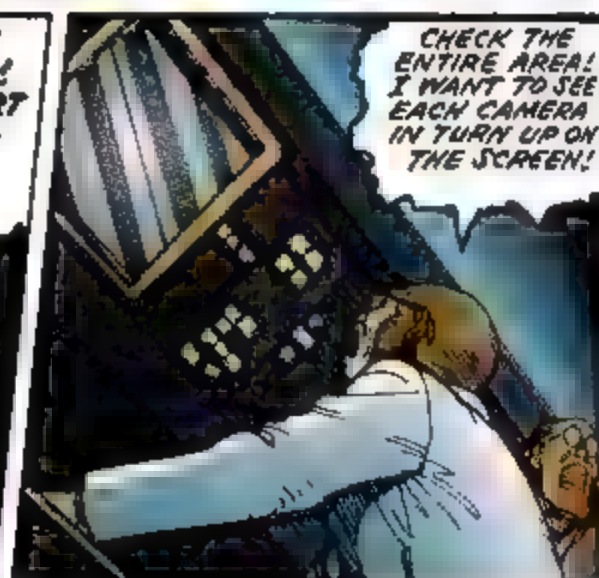


THE
POWER'S
BACK
ON!



AND THE
HEATING
SYSTEM HAS
FINALLY
KICKED IN!

NOW! CHECK
THE MONITORS!
I WANT A REPORT
ON THE WHERE-
ABOUTS OF
NUMBER 41!



CHECK THE
ENTIRE AREA!
I WANT TO SEE
EACH CAMERA
IN TURN UP ON
THE SCREEN!

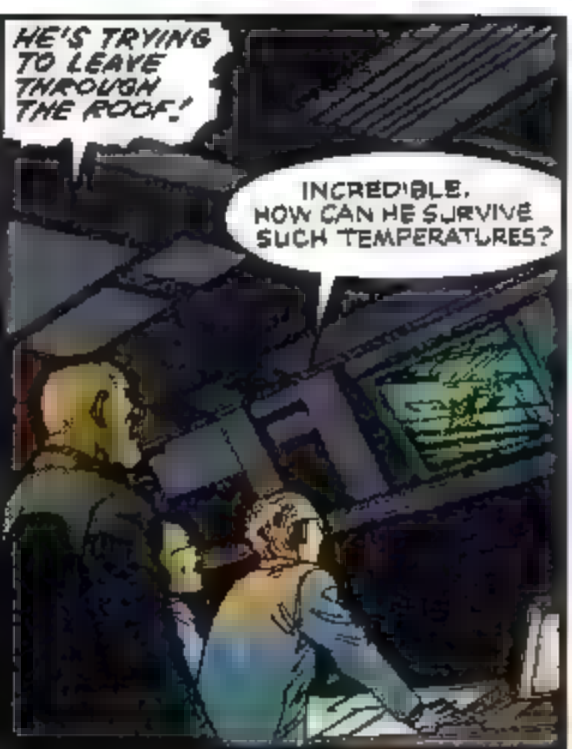
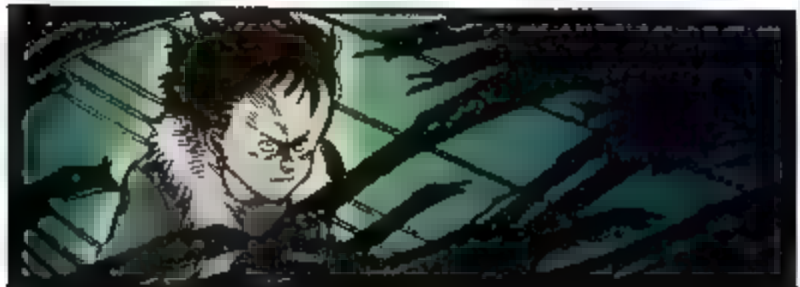
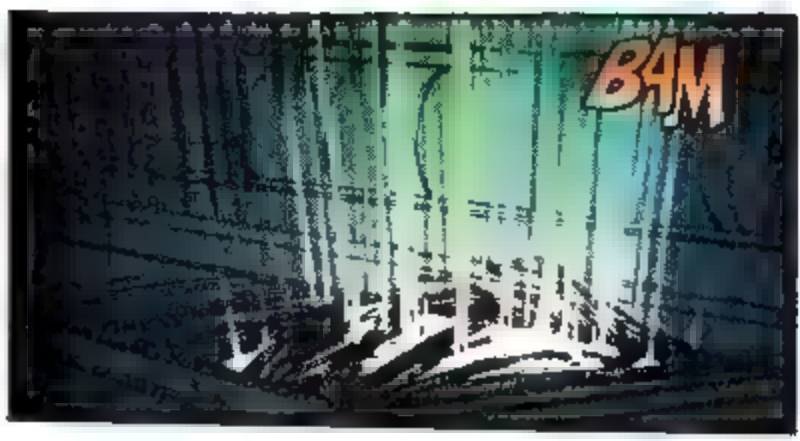
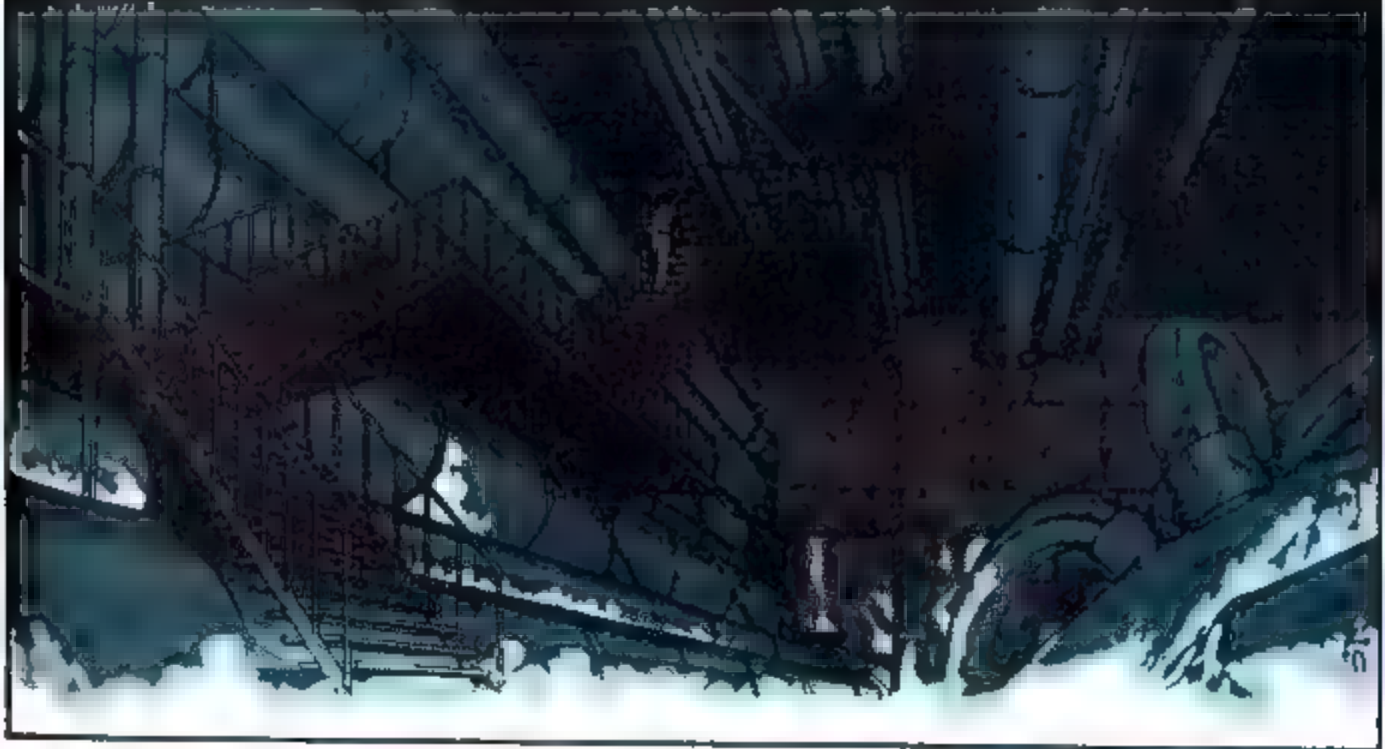


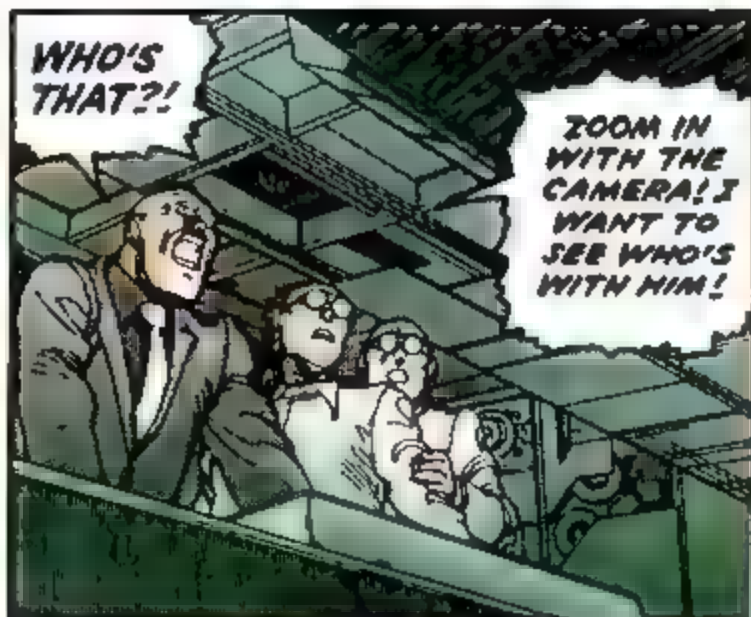
VOOON

WHAT
IS
THAT?!



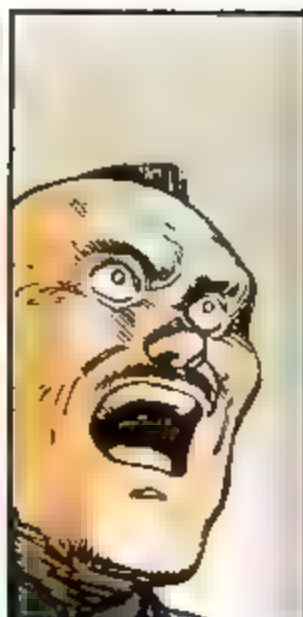
I DON'T
KNOW EITHER,
SO LET'S
HURRY!





WHO'S THAT?!

ZOOM IN WITH THE CAMERA! I WANT TO SEE WHO'S WITH HIM!



IT'S A CHILD!

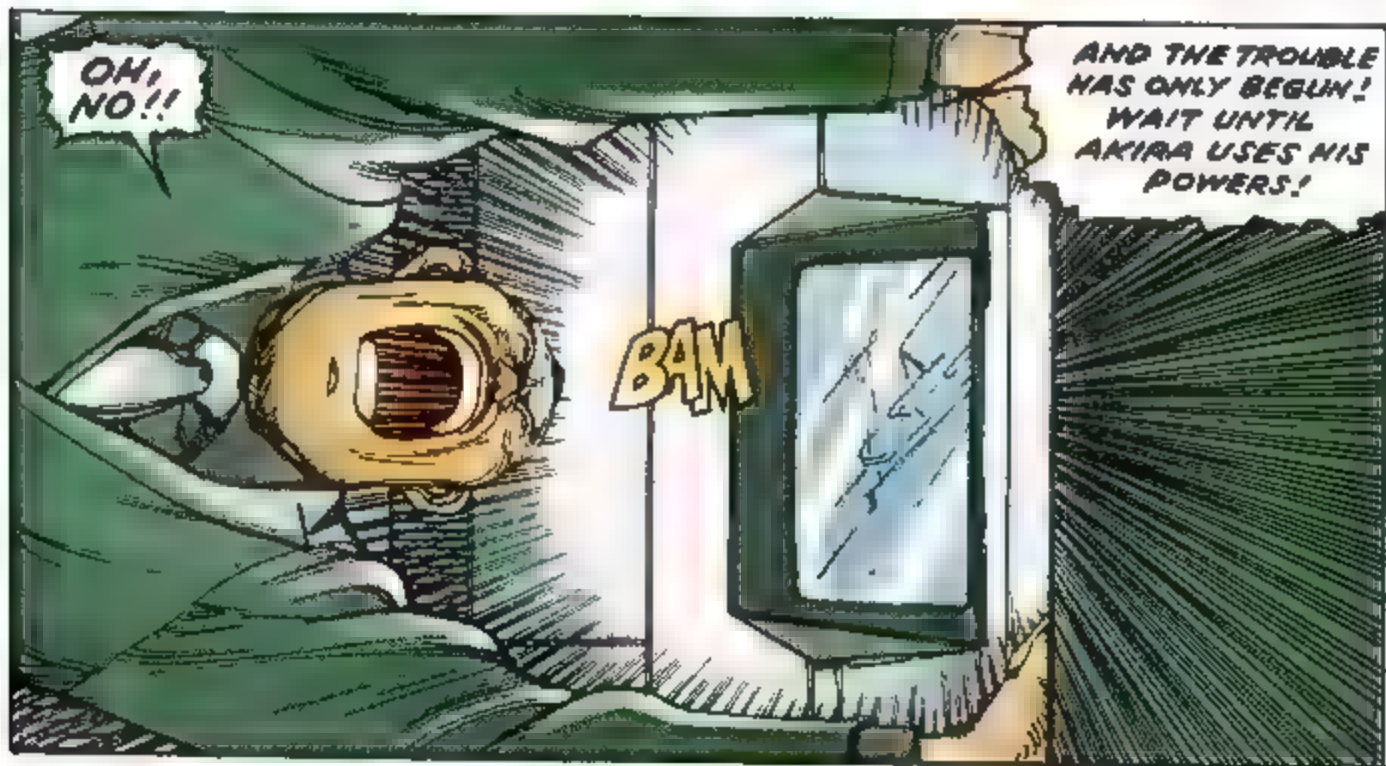
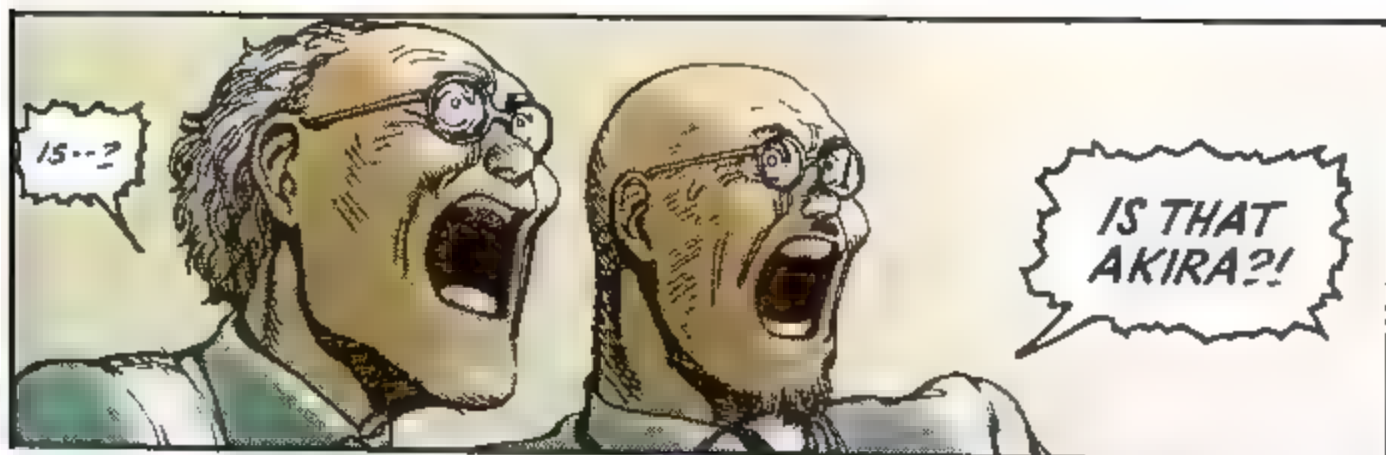
BUT, WHERE COULD...?

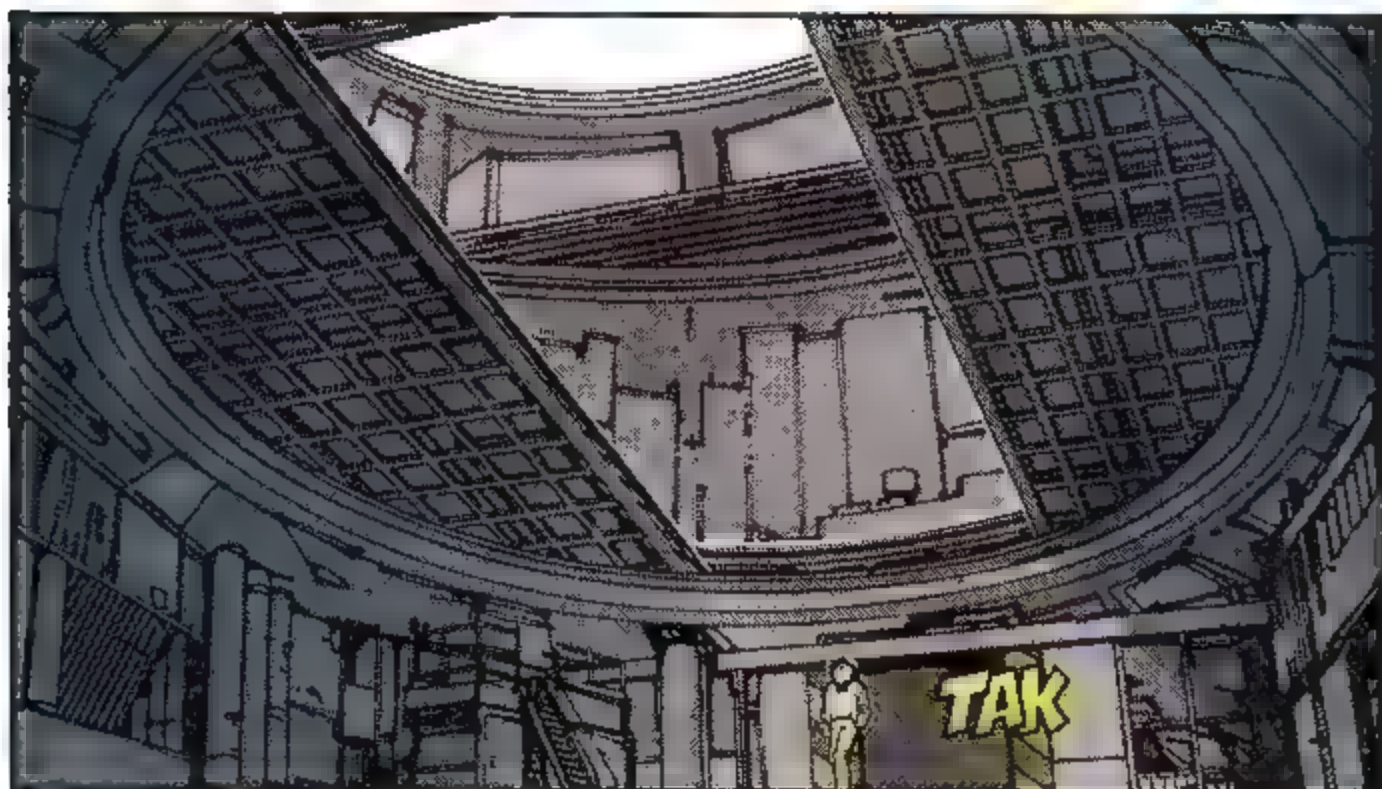
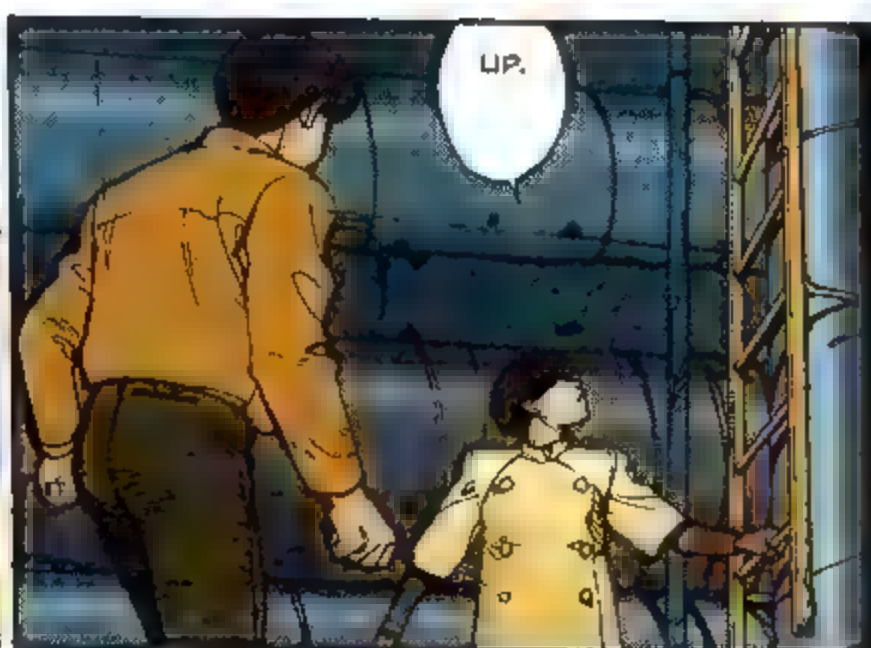
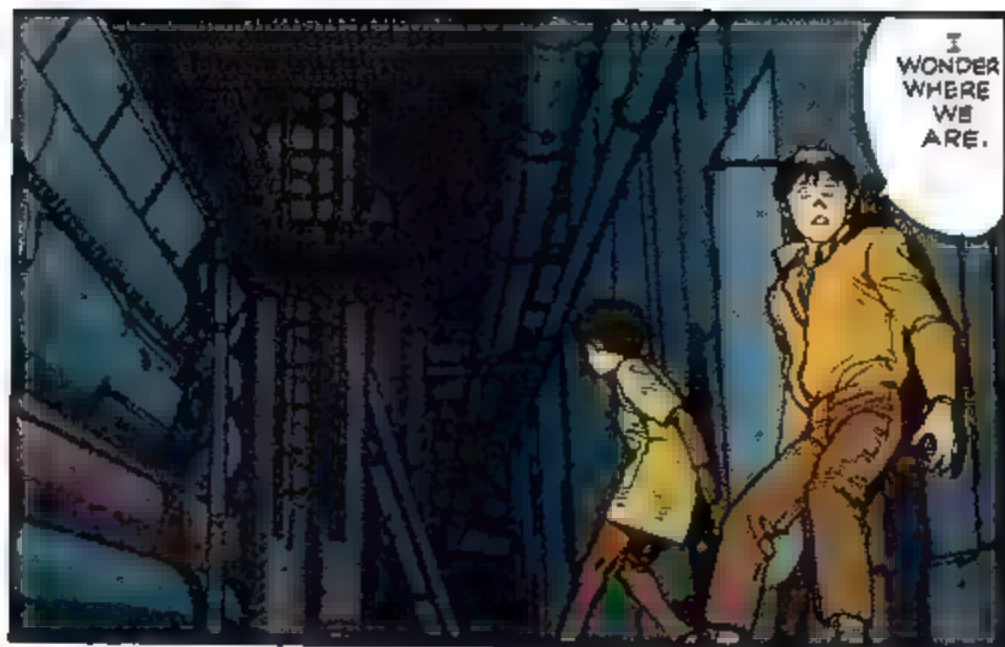
WE'VE MAGNIFIED THE IMAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SIR.

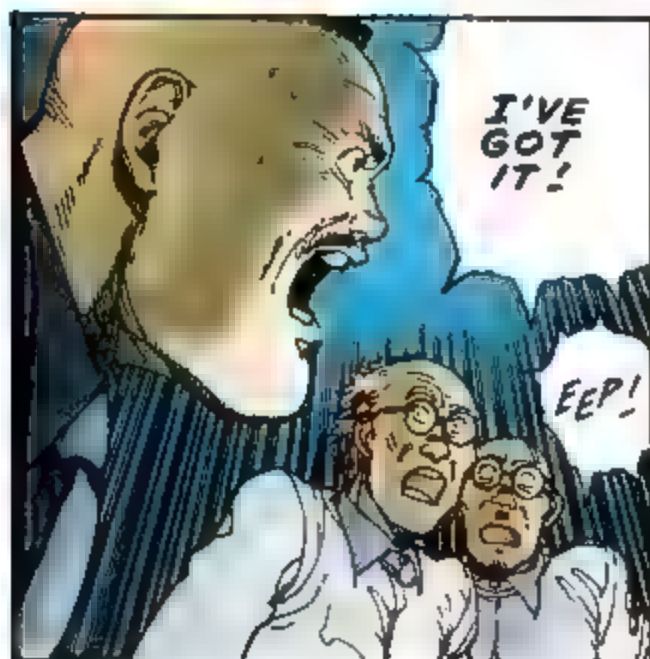
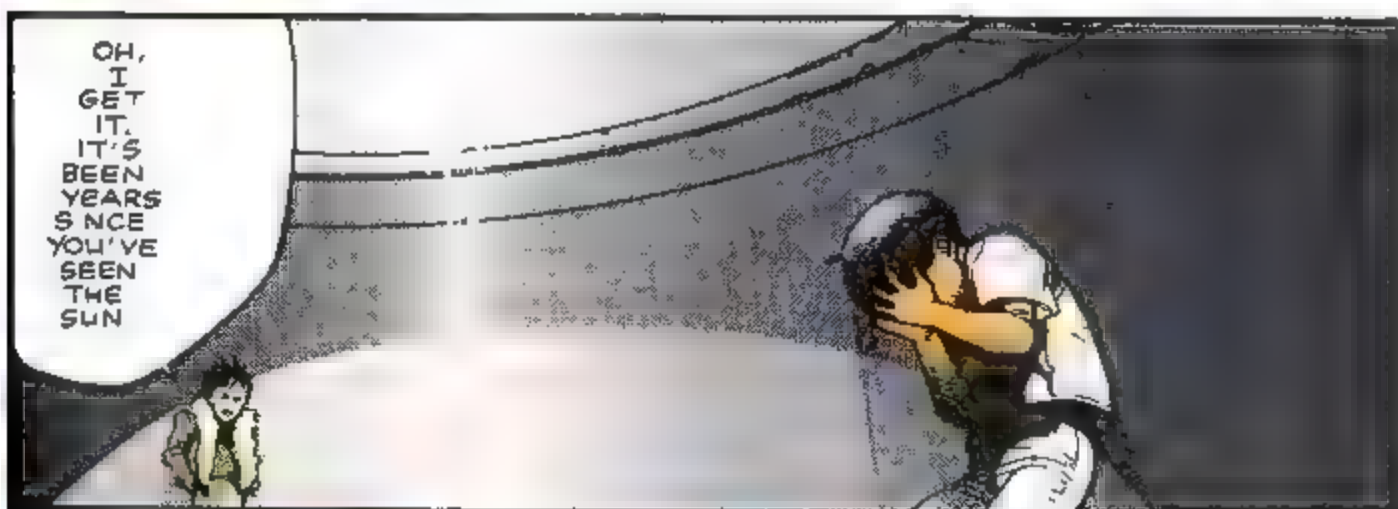
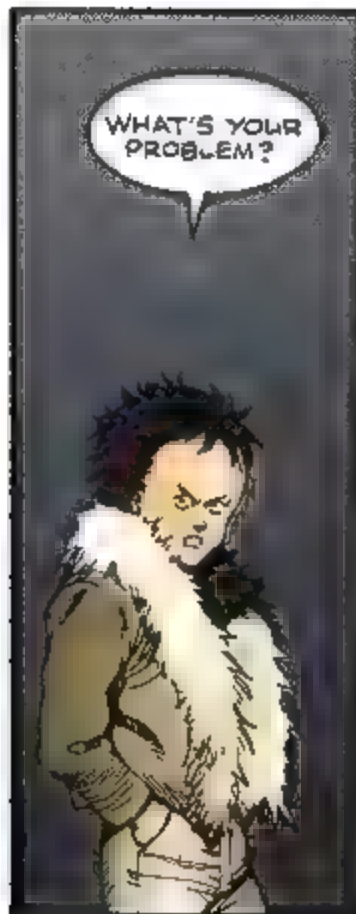


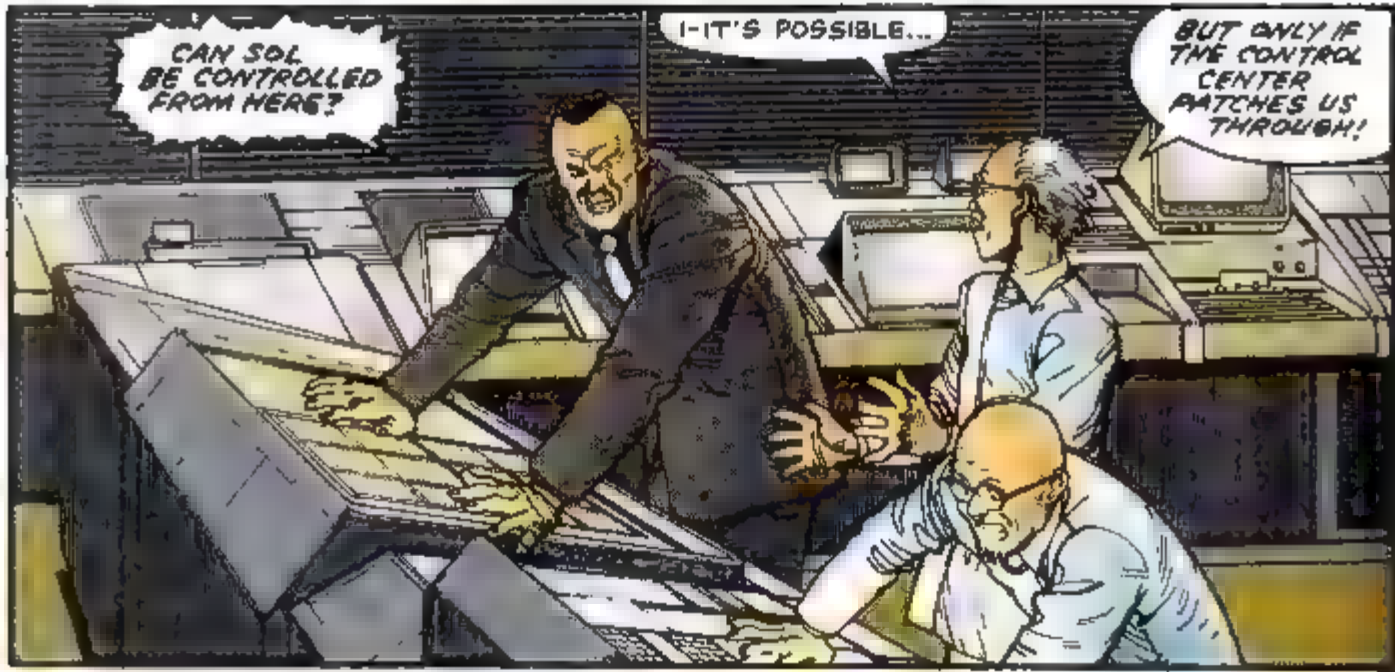
A... KIR... A...

THE FOOL HAS AWAKENED AKIRA!





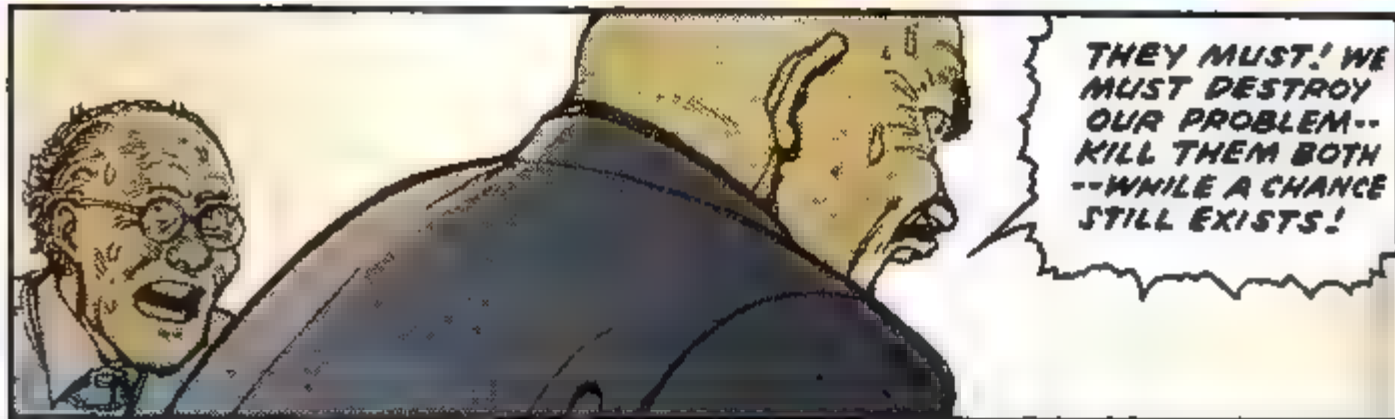




CAN SOL
BE CONTROLLED
FROM HERE?

I-IT'S POSSIBLE...

BUT ONLY IF
THE CONTROL
CENTER
PATCHES US
THROUGH!



THEY MUST! WE
MUST DESTROY
OUR PROBLEM--
KILL THEM BOTH
--WHILE A CHANCE
STILL EXISTS!



TAKE A
LOOK!

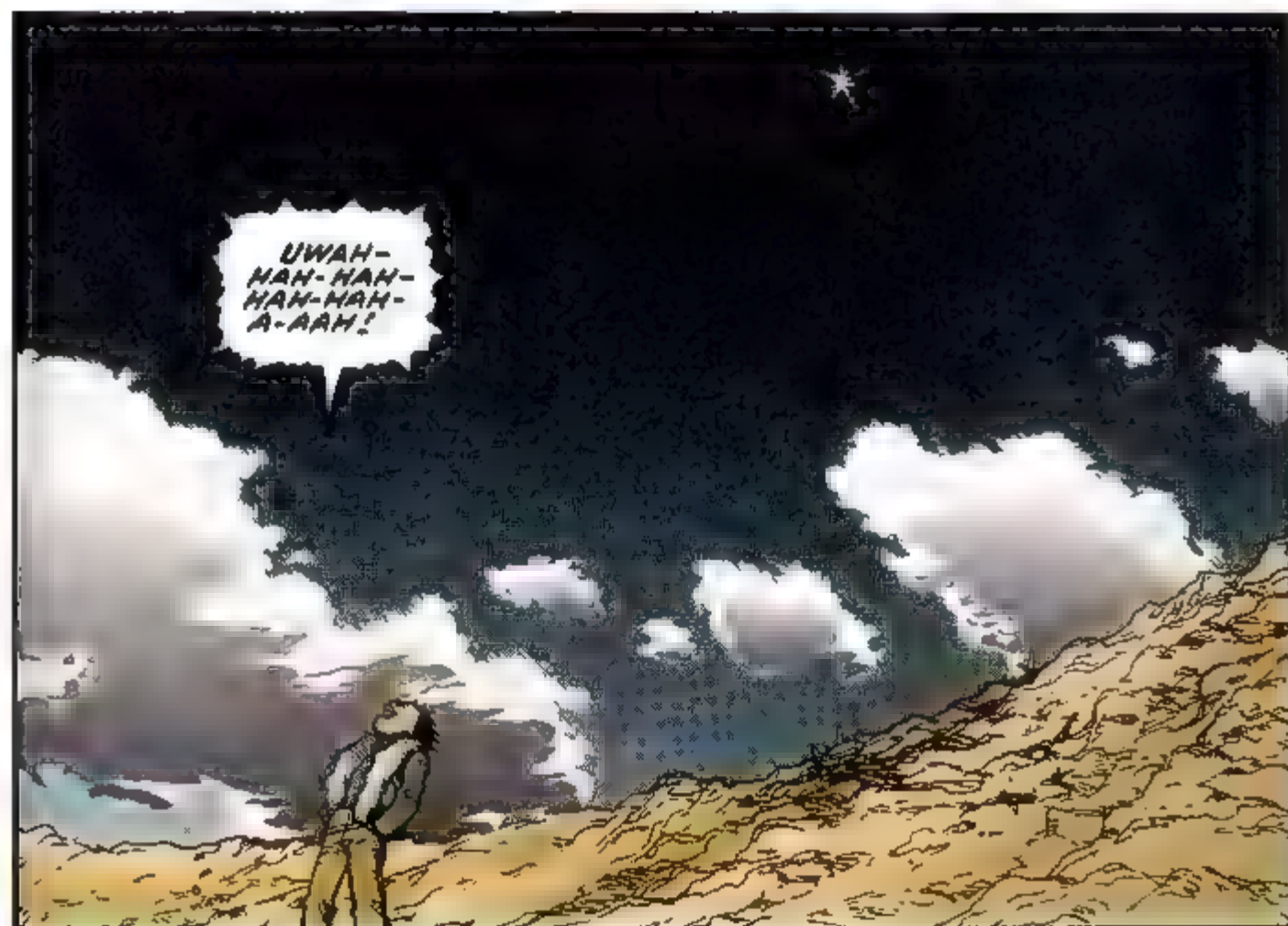
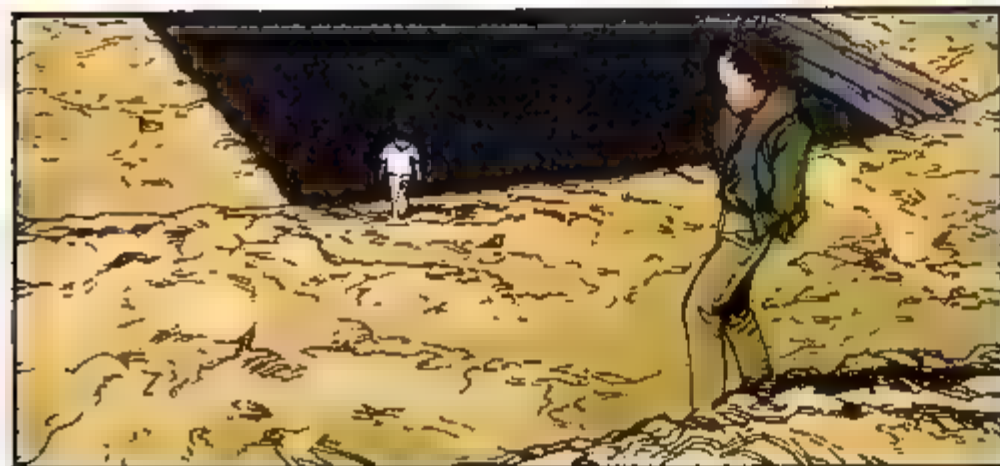
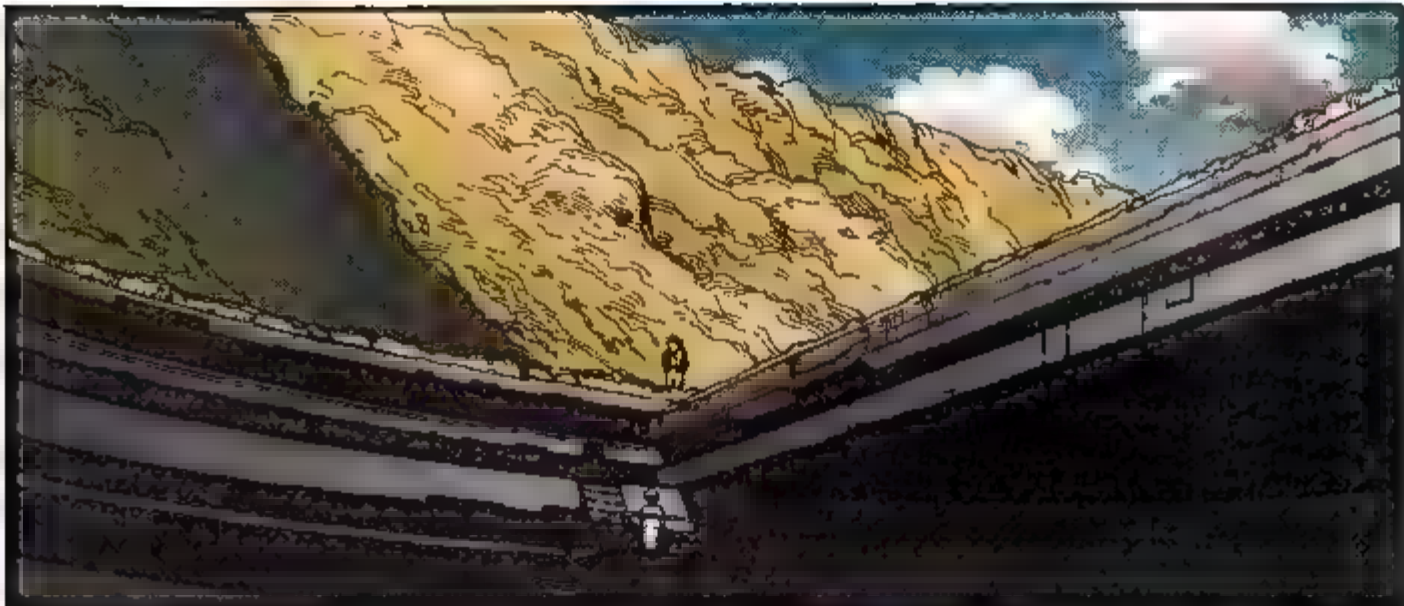
AT WHAT?

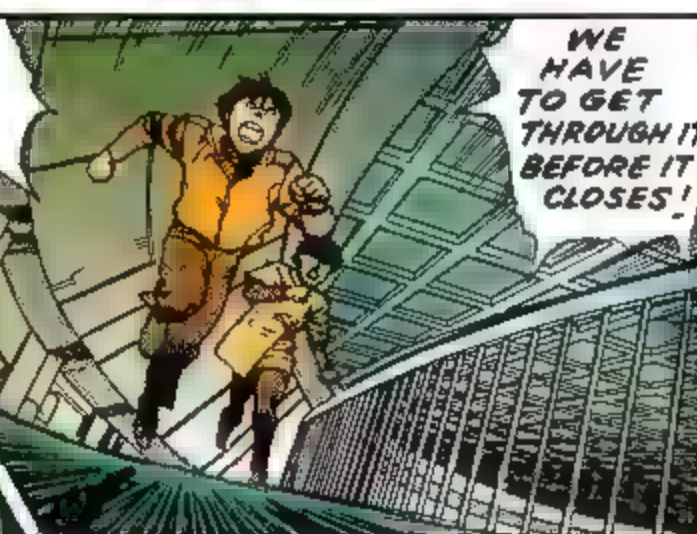
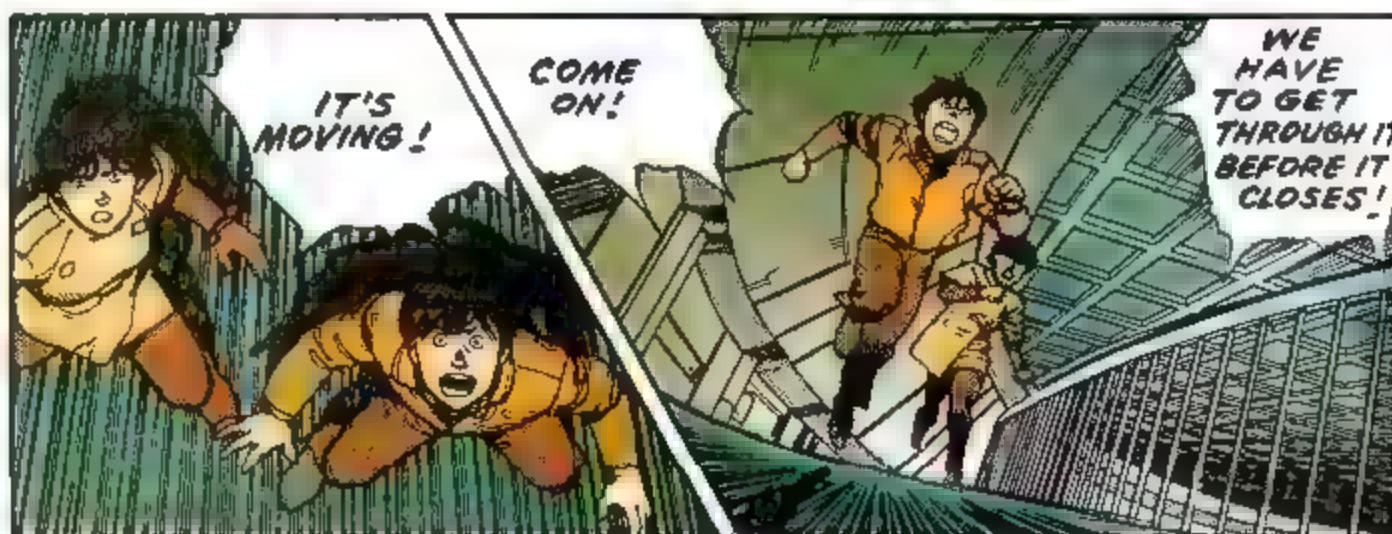
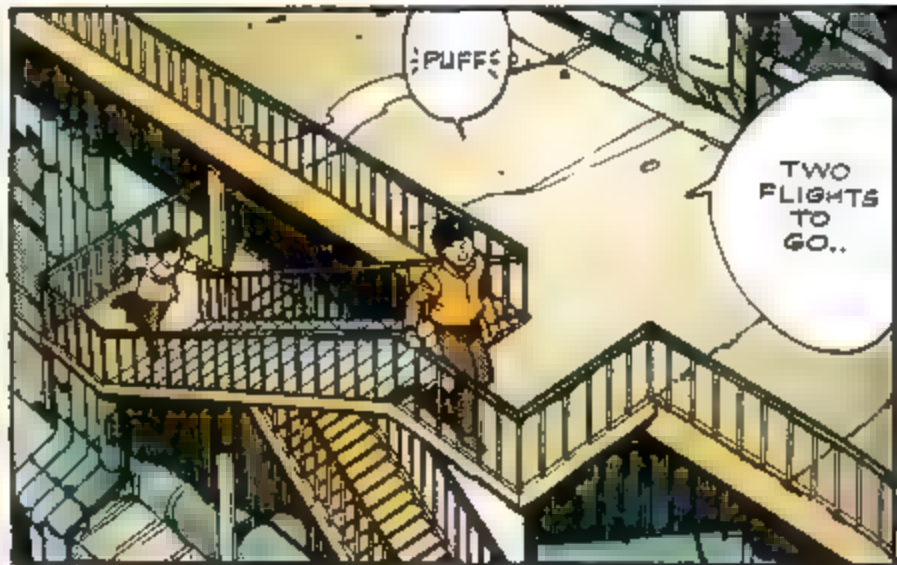


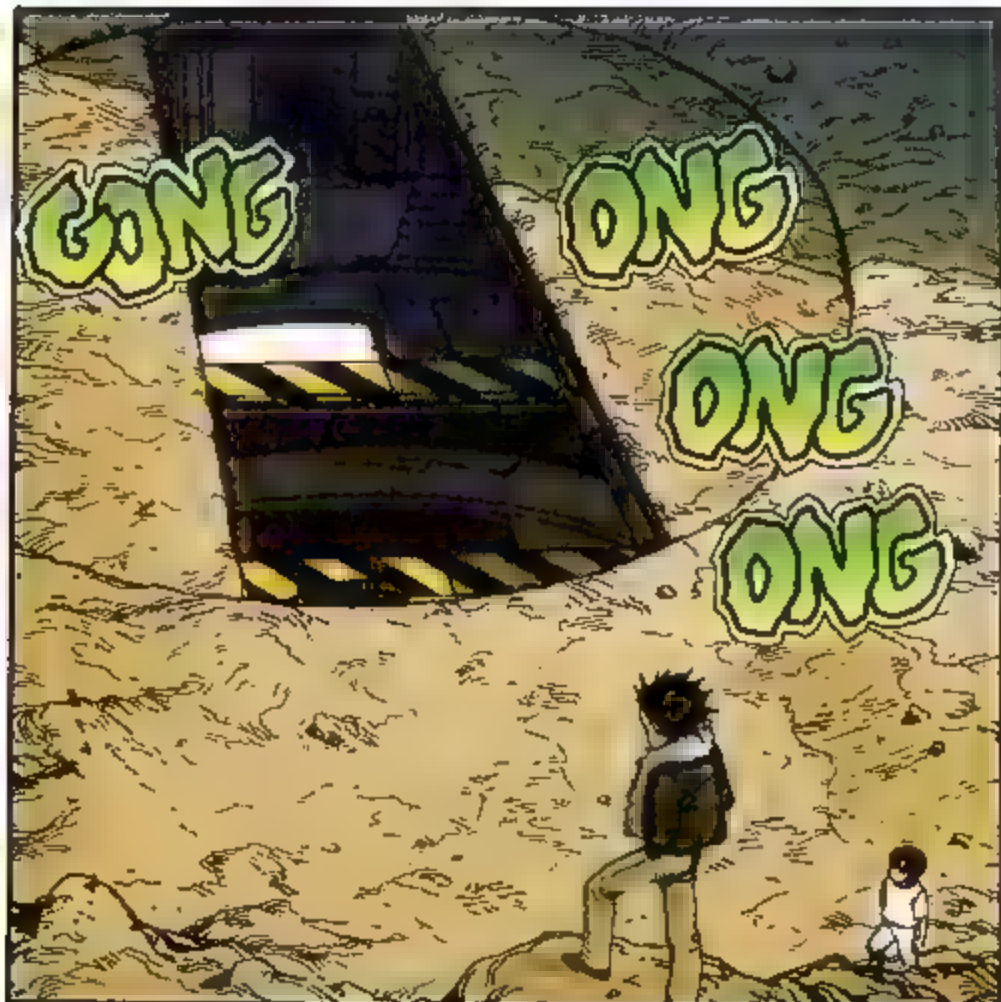
OH!



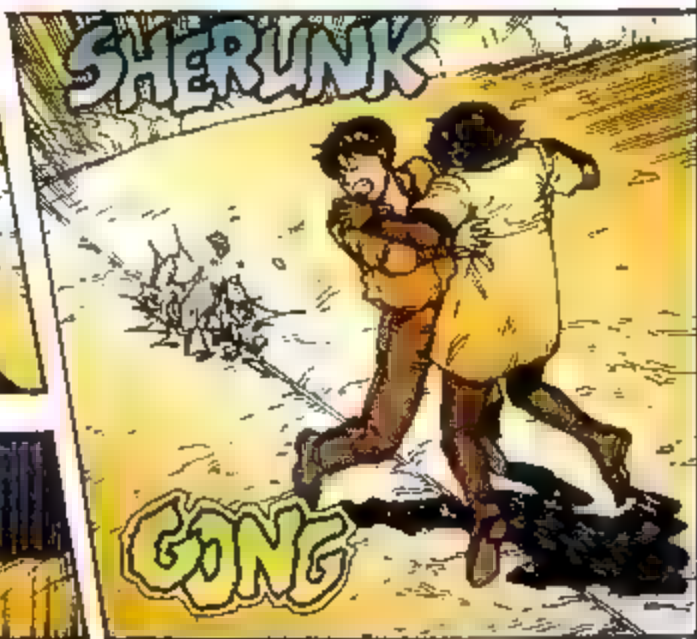
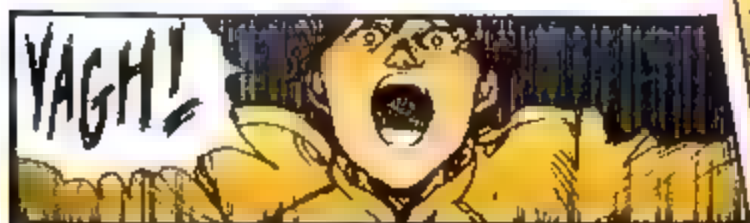
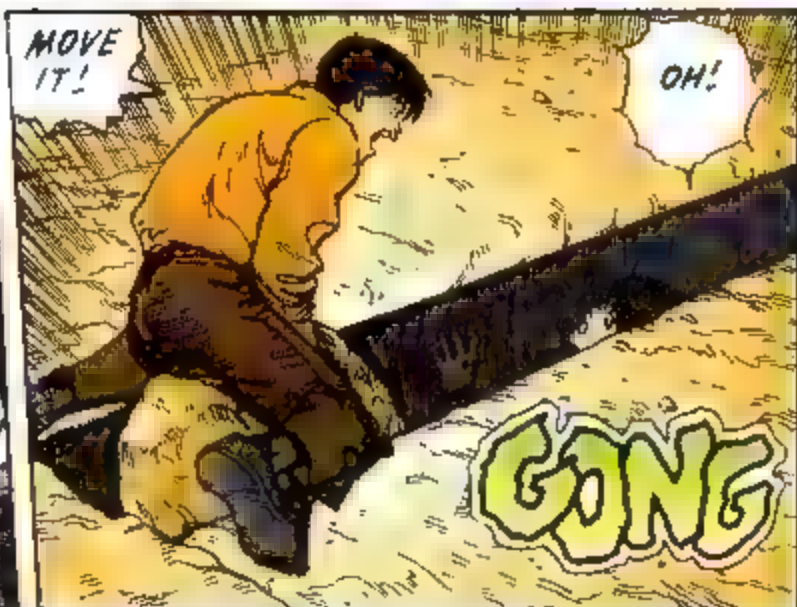
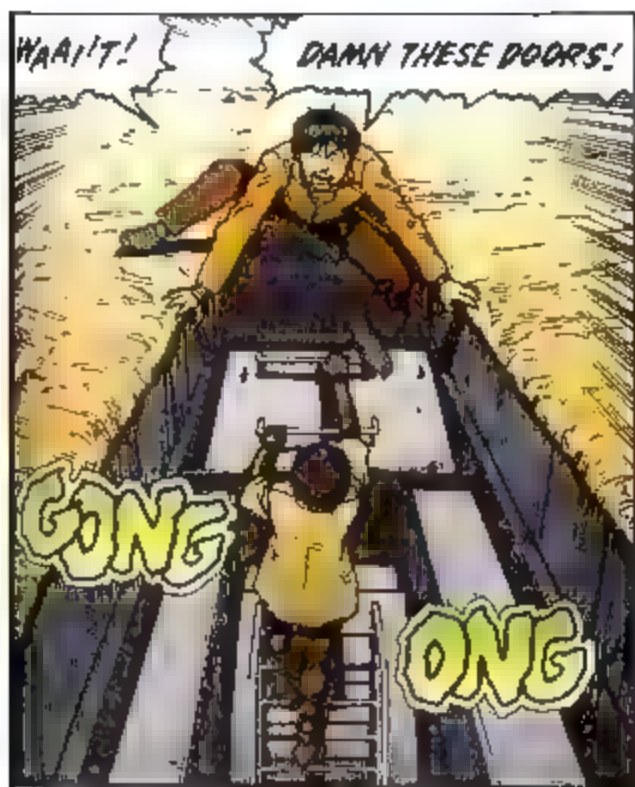
SUNLIGHT!

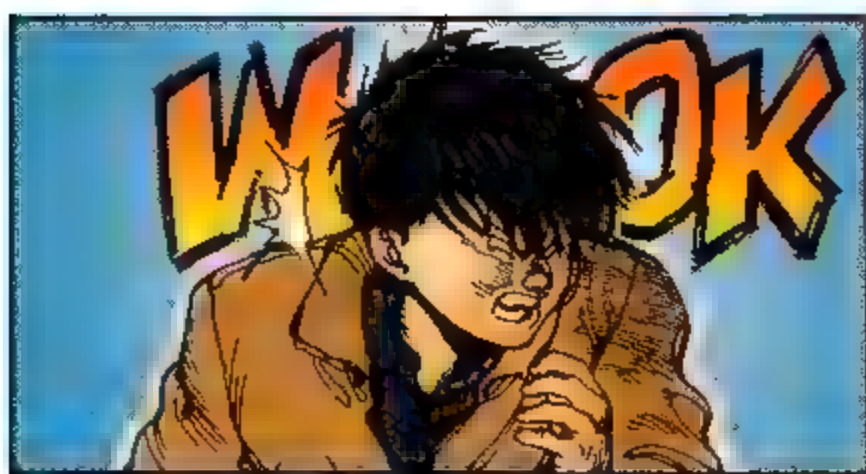
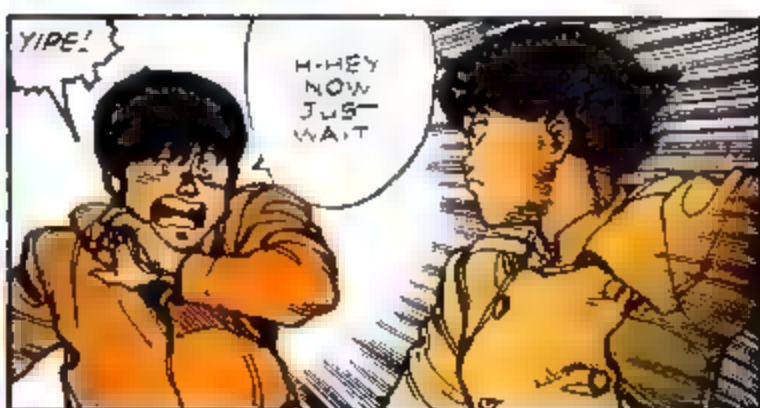














MMHMM?

DO YOU
KNOW
WHERE
WE ARE?



THIS IS THE
HEART OF THE
DEVASTATION--
THE PLACE WHERE
THE BOMB FELL
ON TOKYO!



NO KIDDING

THE
RESISTANCE
KNOWS OF A
TOP-SECRET
BASE.

...LOCATED
AT THE VERY
CENTER OF
THE CRATER..



MM?

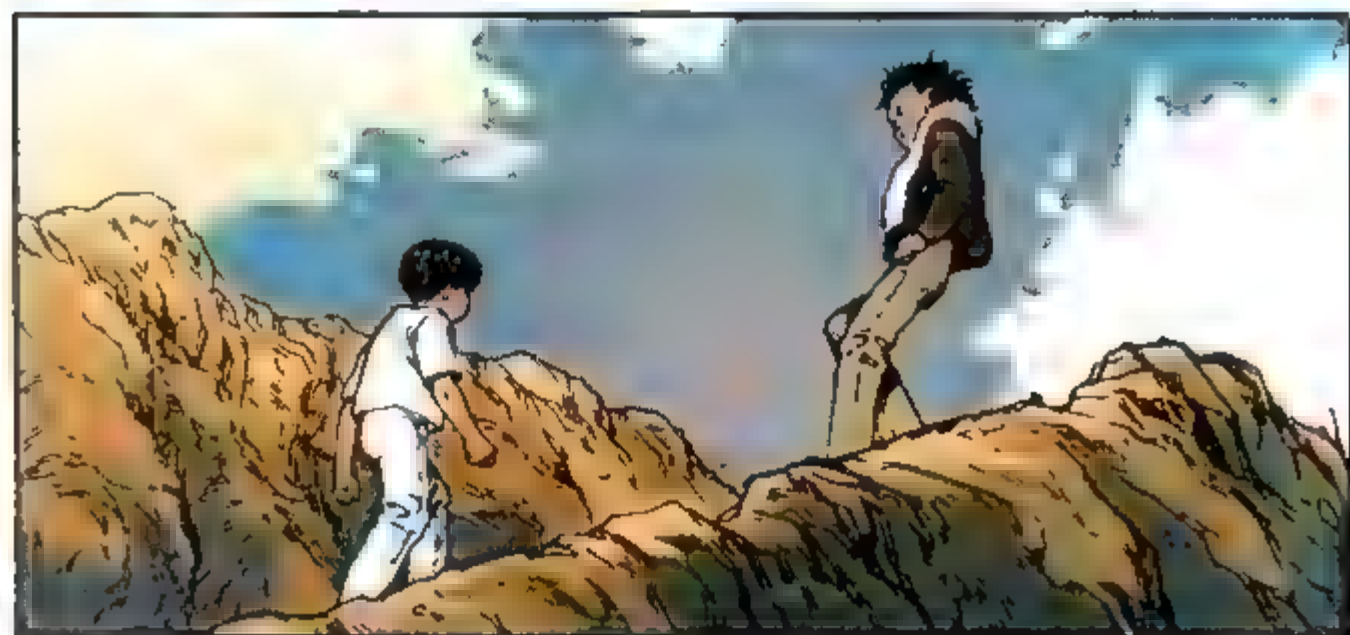
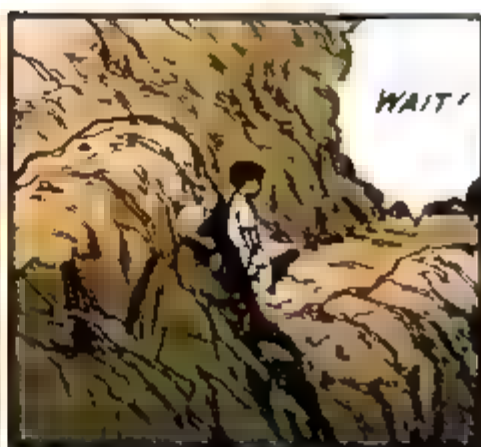
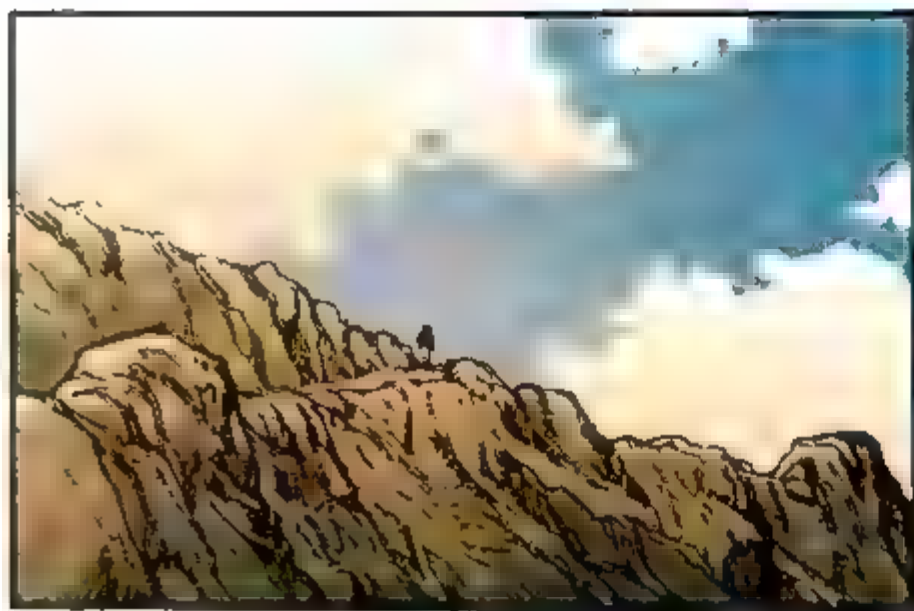
IT
COULDN'T
BE.

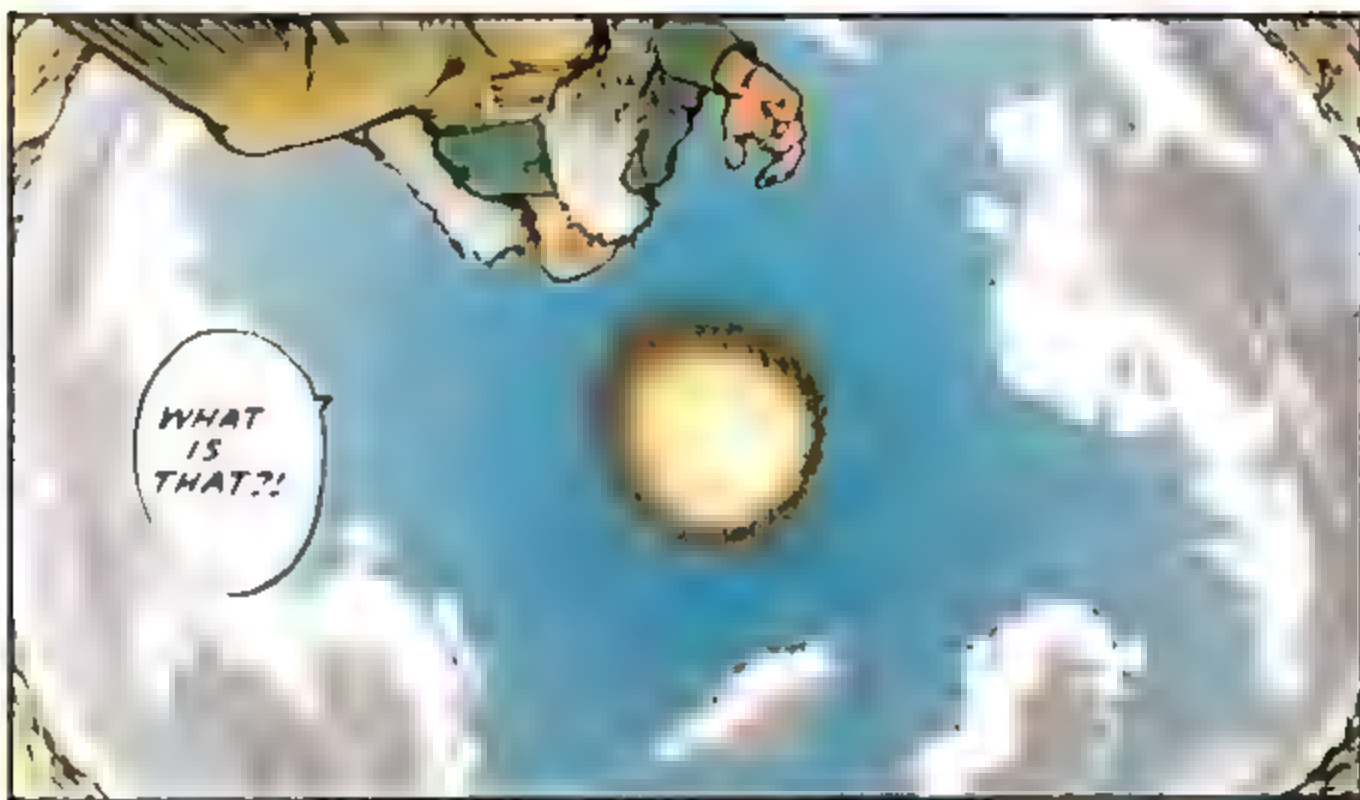
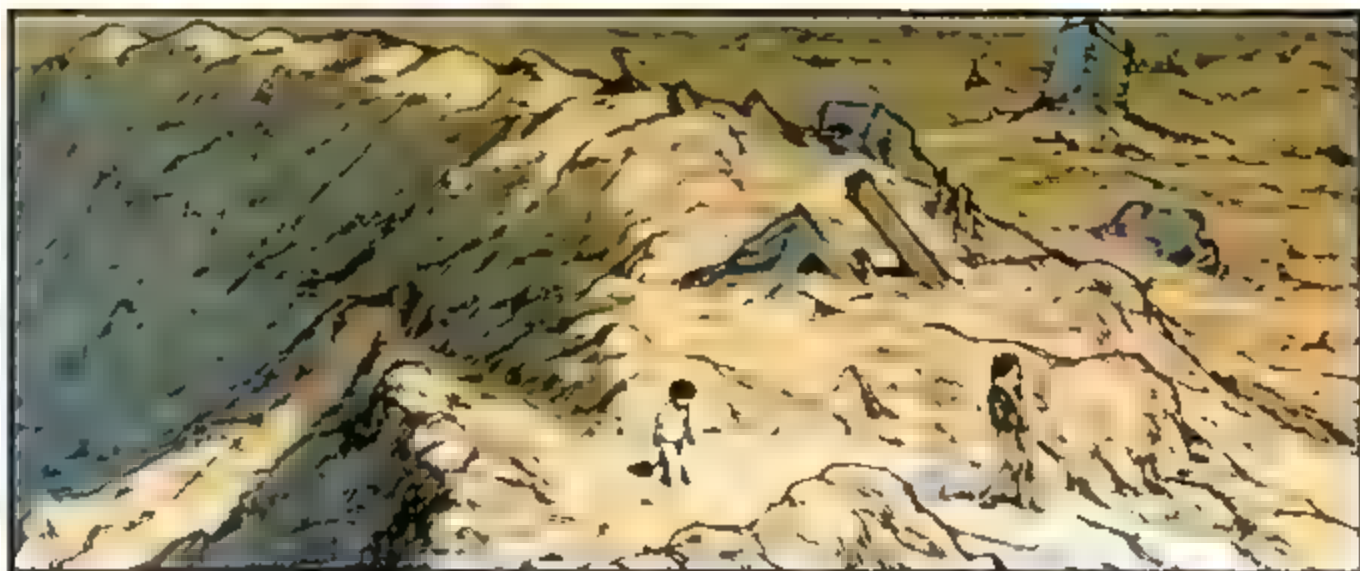


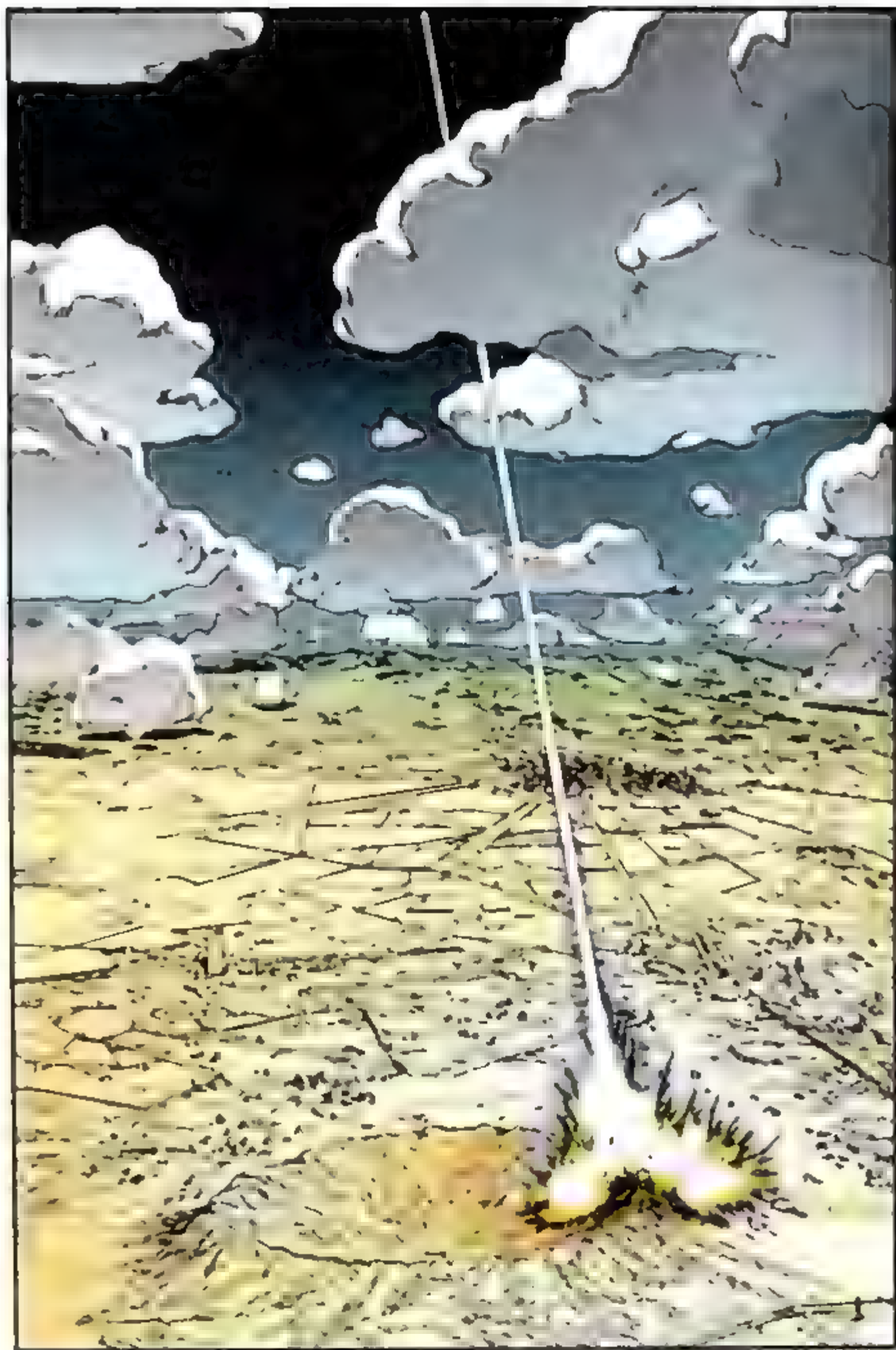
LOOK AT THAT!



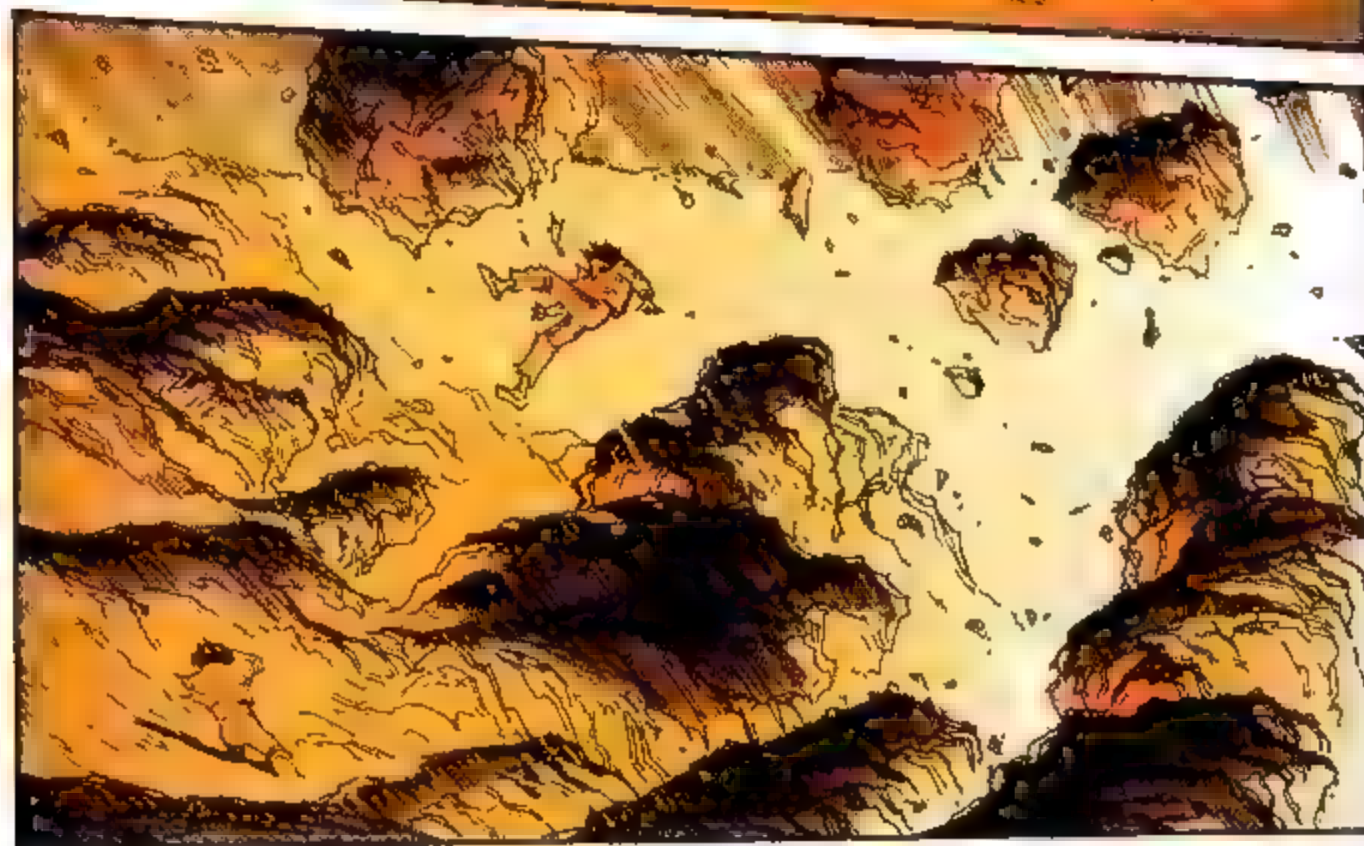
DO YOU
REALIZE
WHAT THIS
COULD
MEAN?

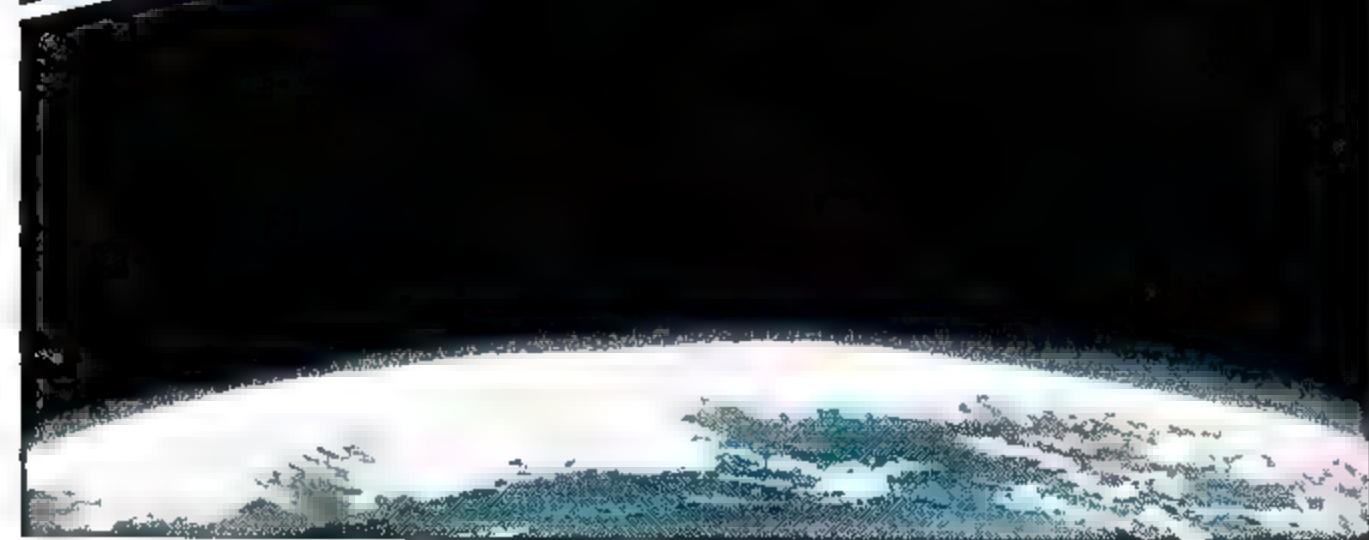
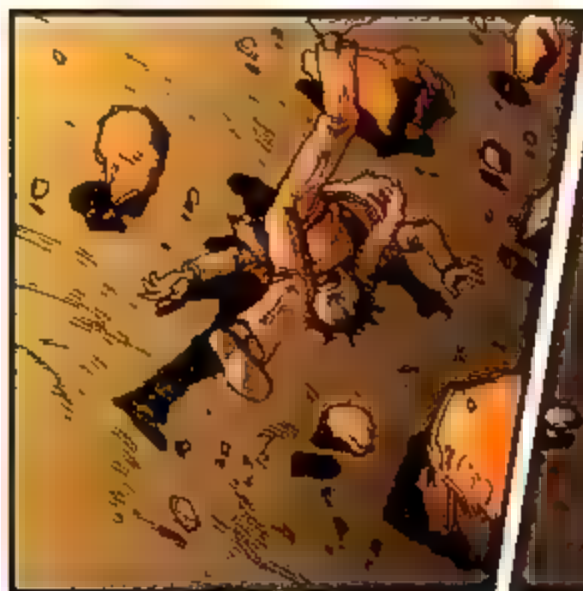


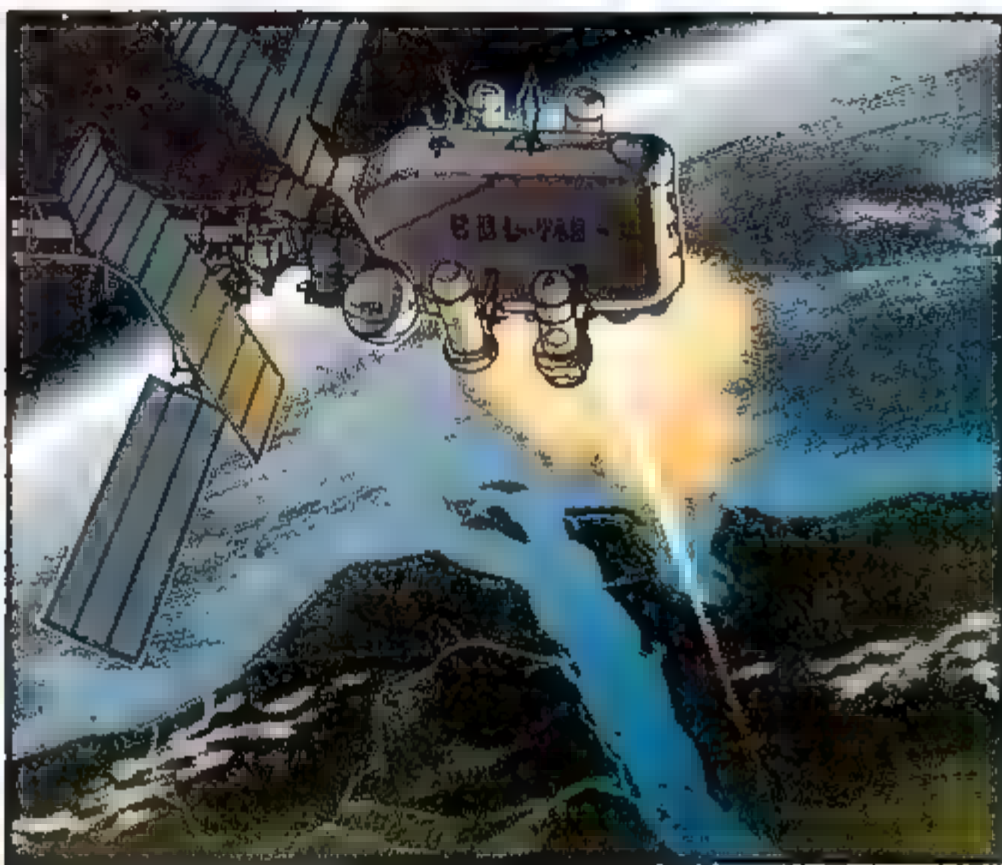
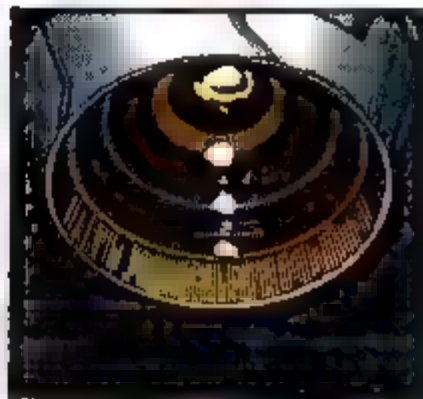
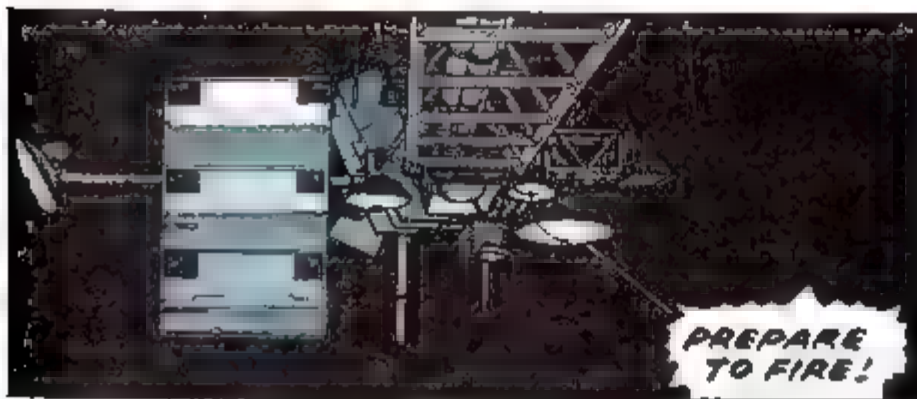
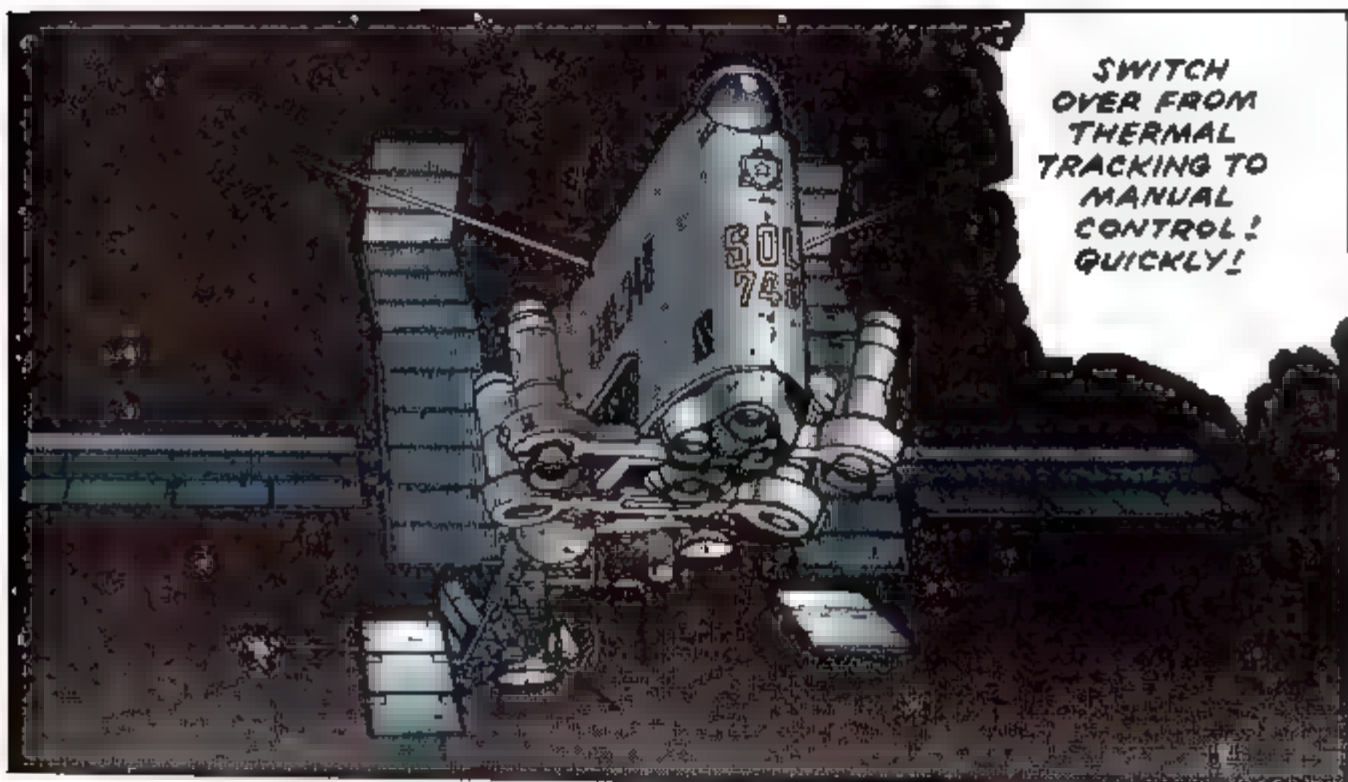


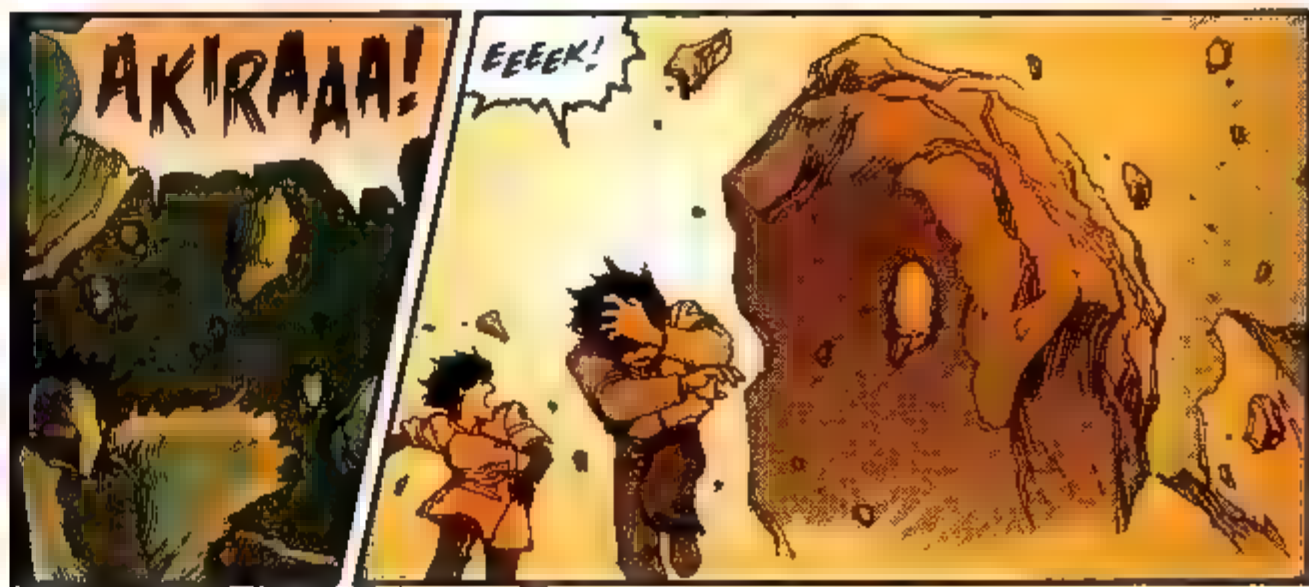
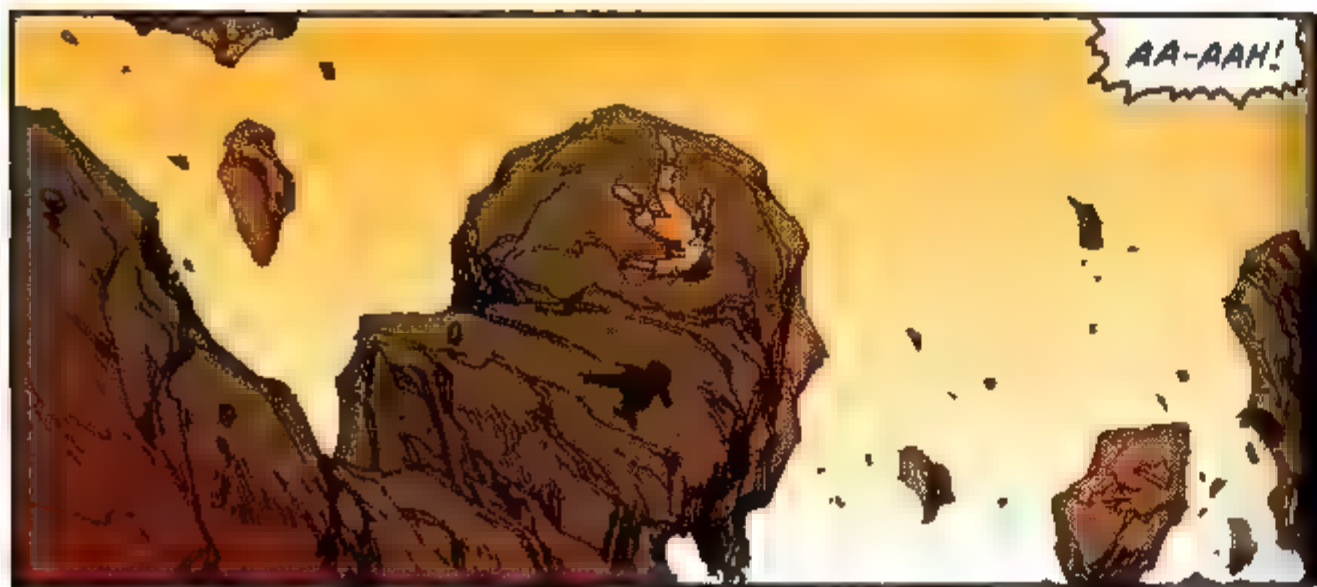


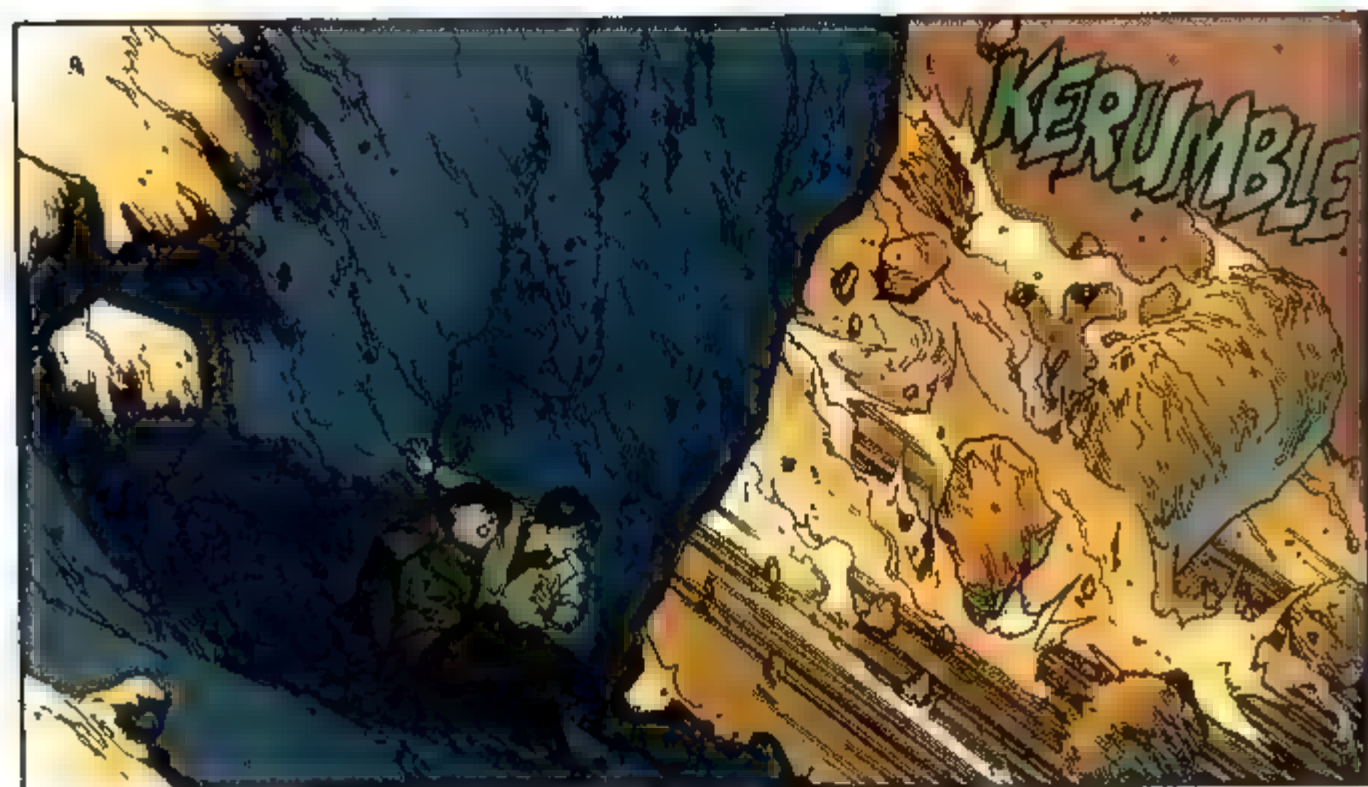
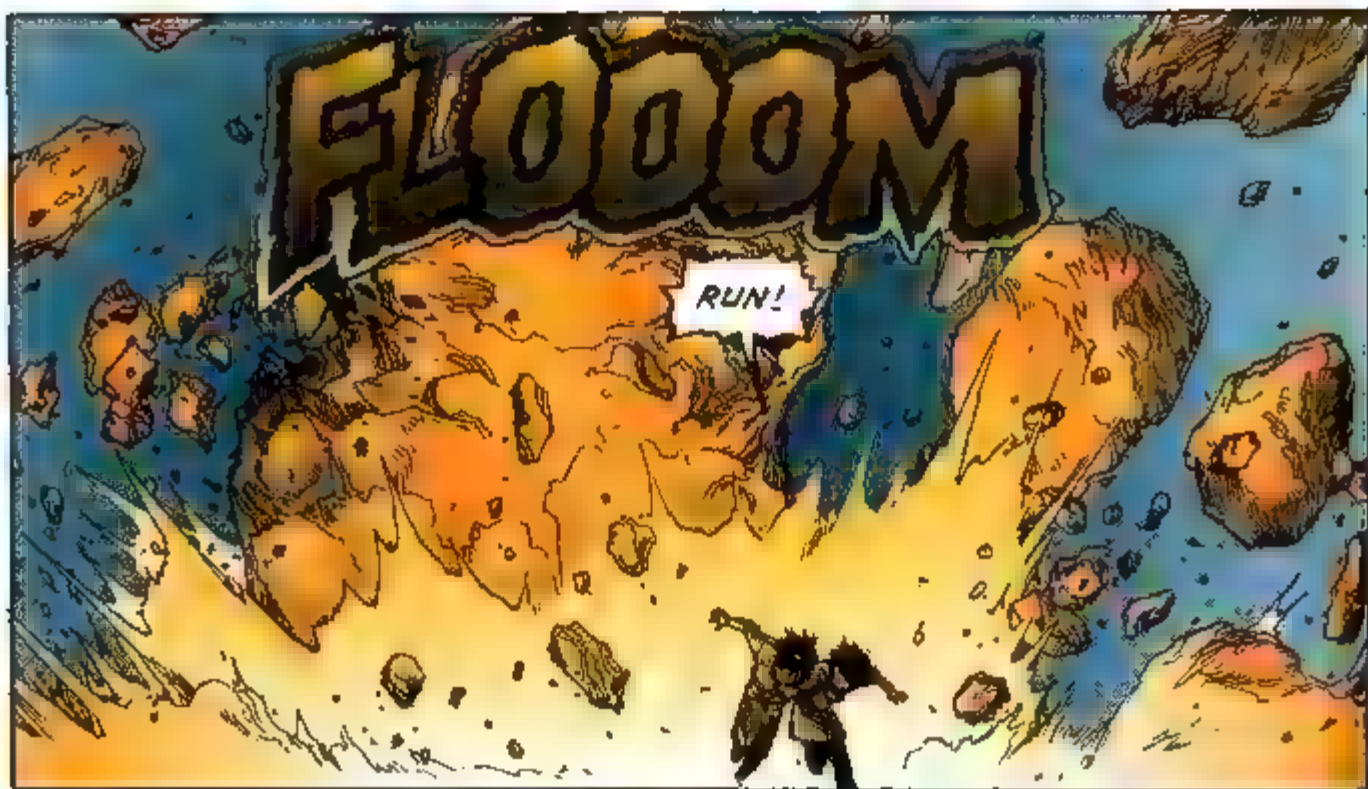
VOOM

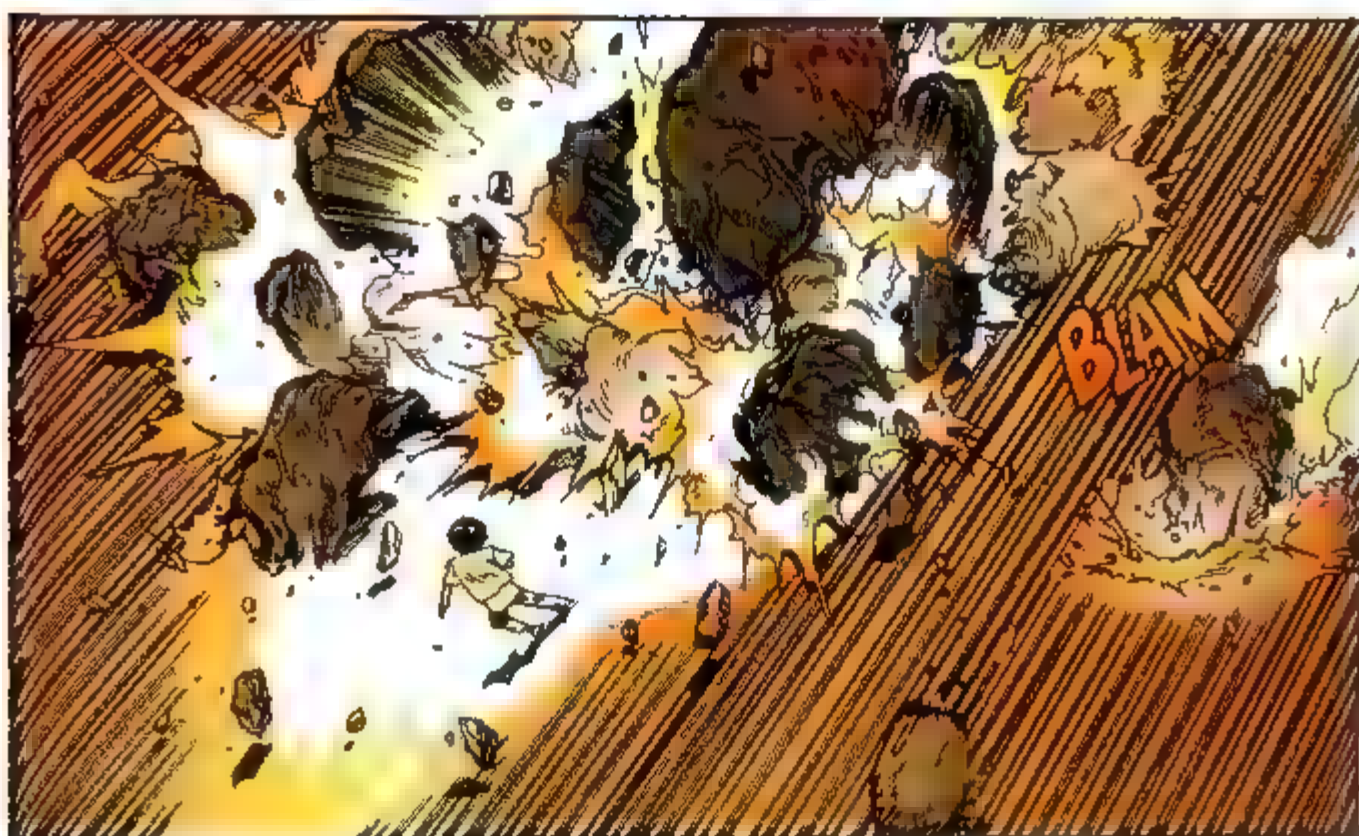
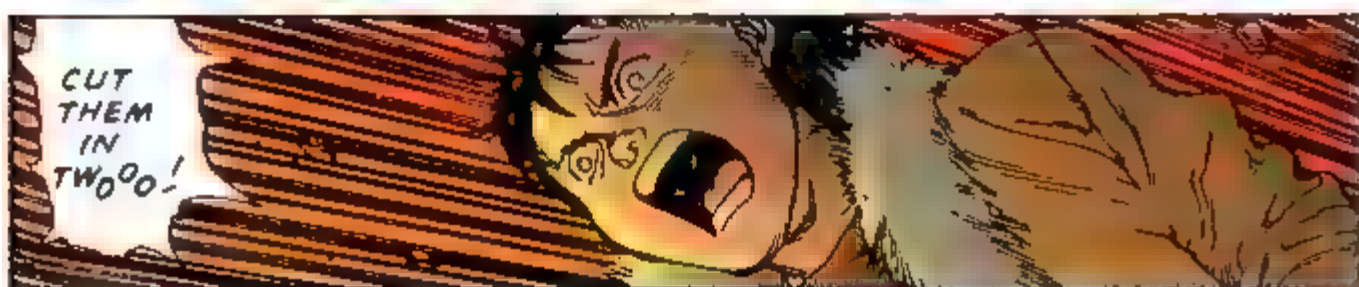
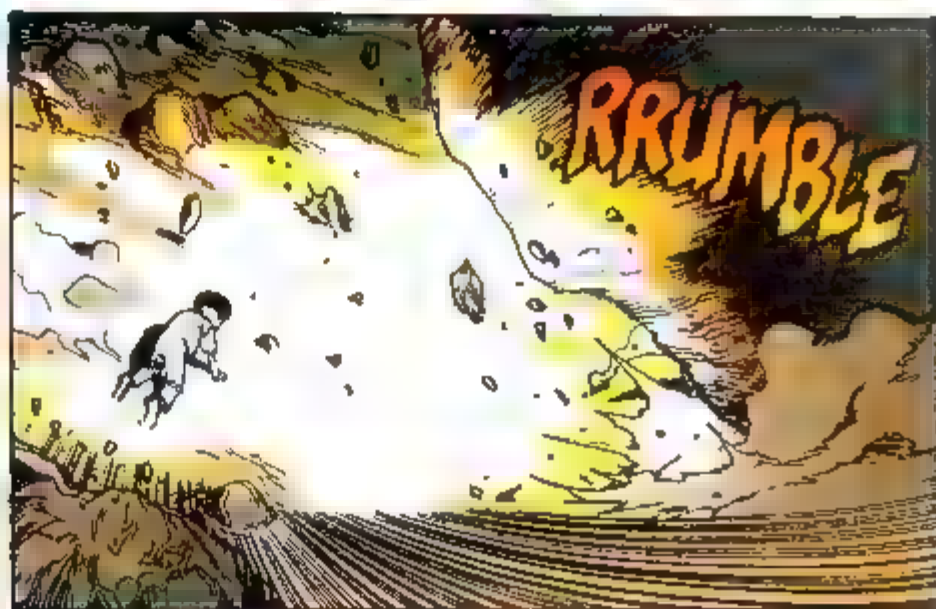
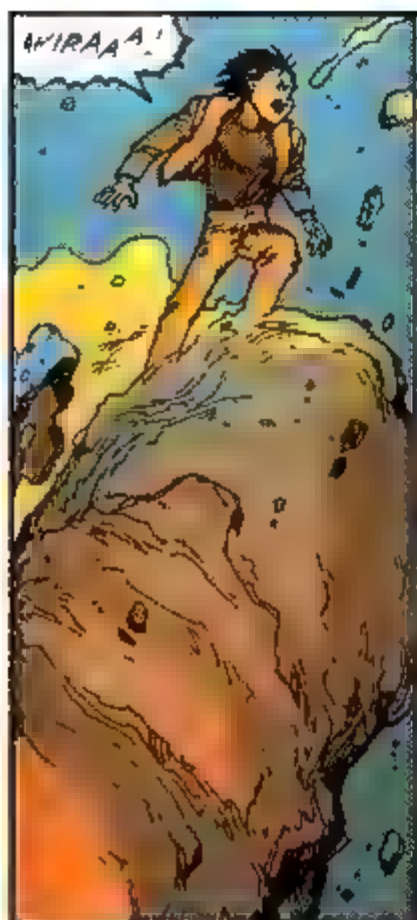


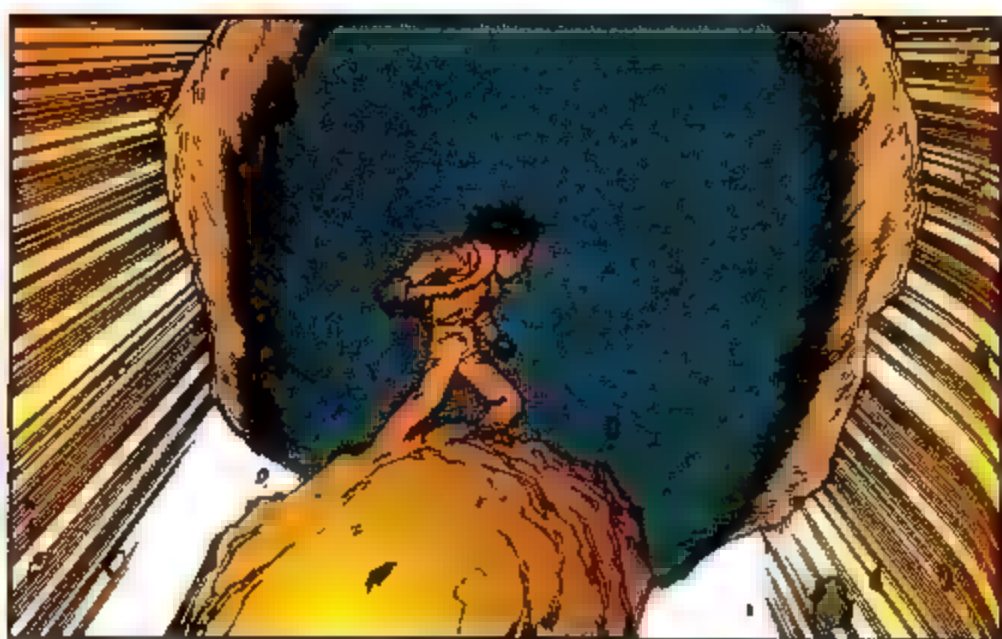
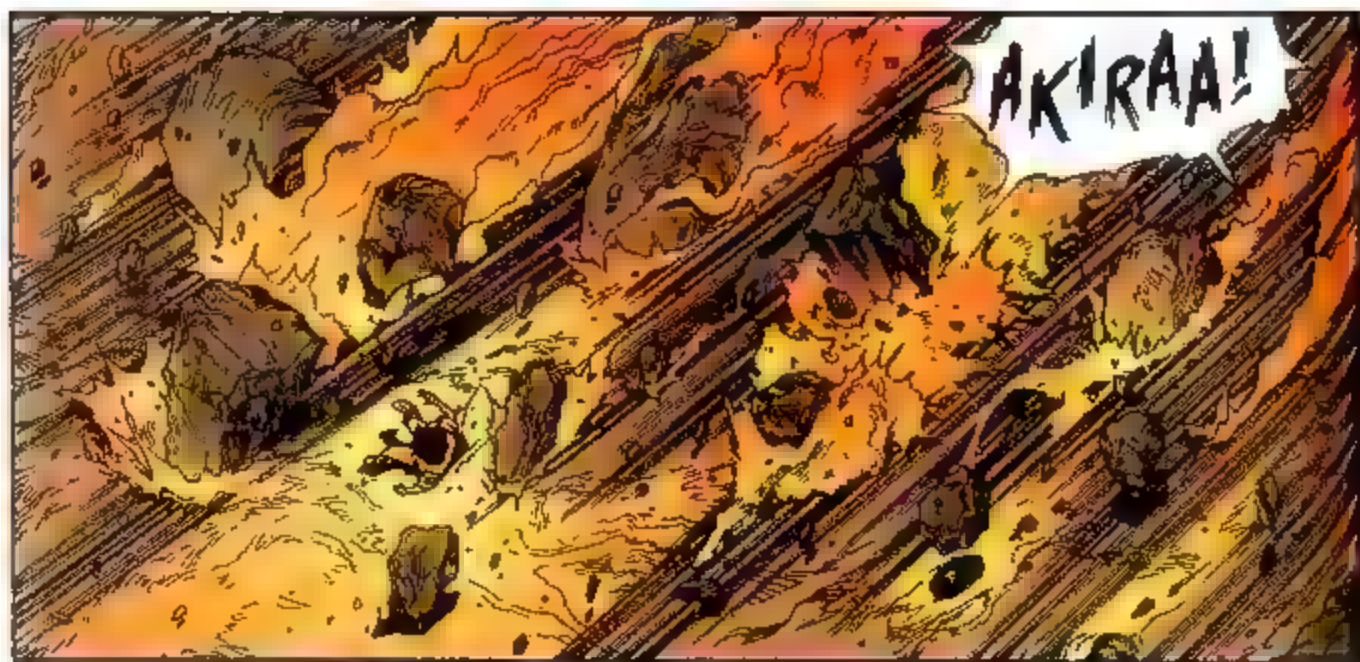


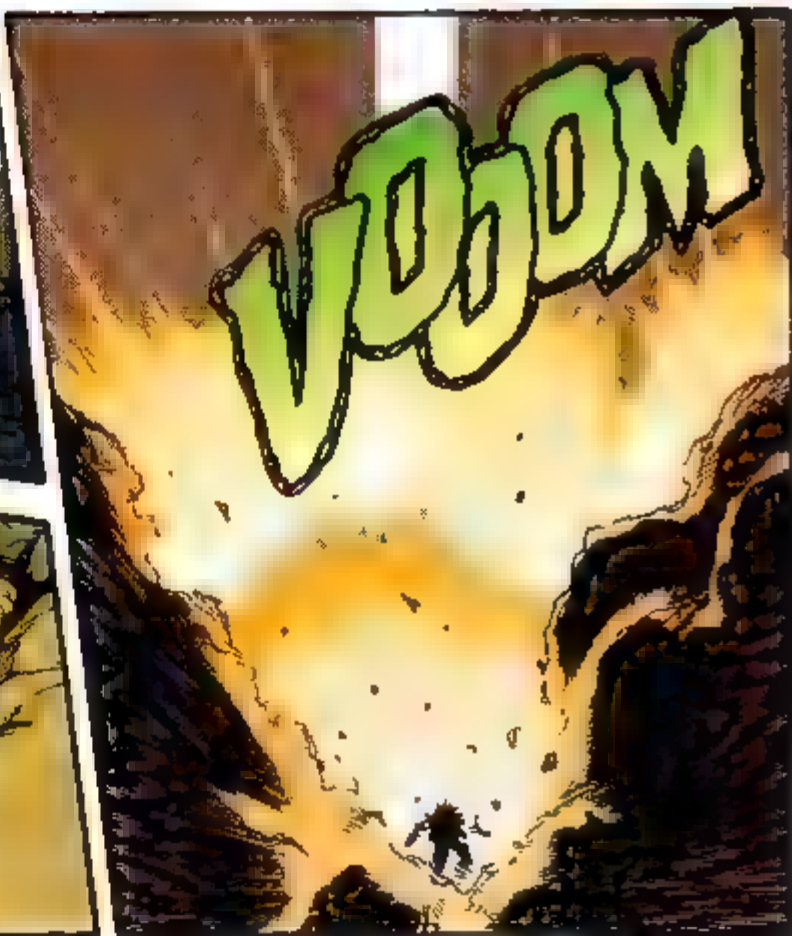
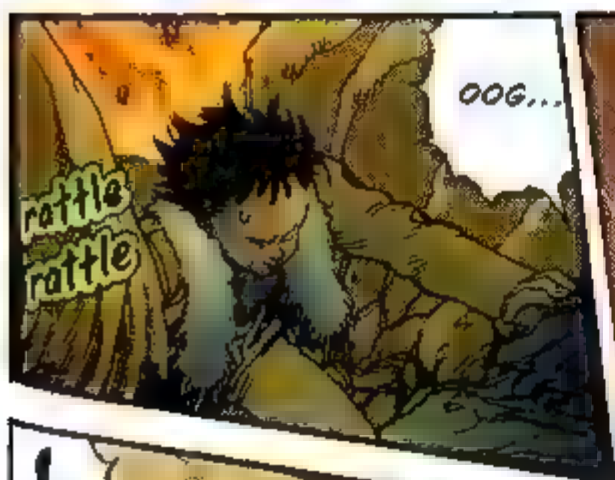
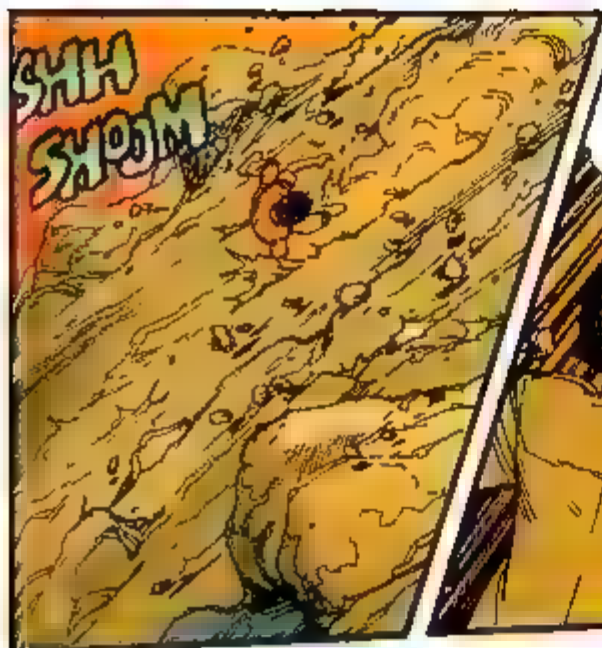


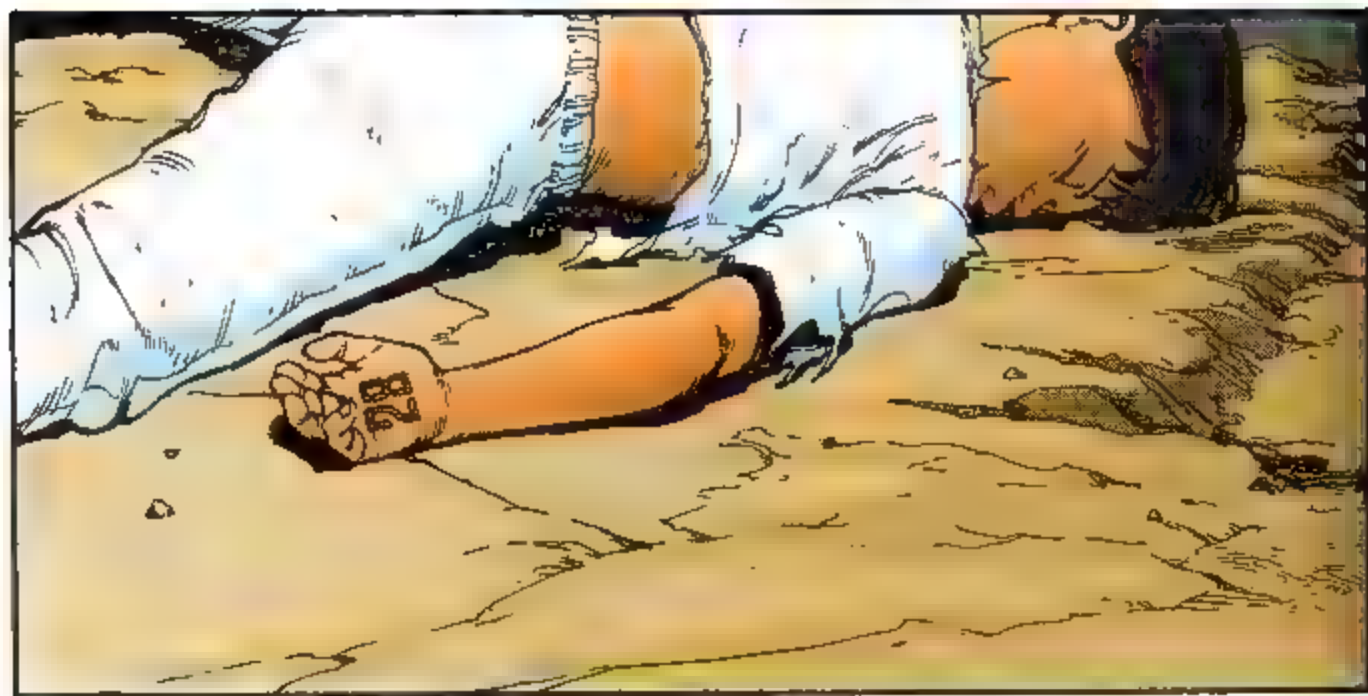
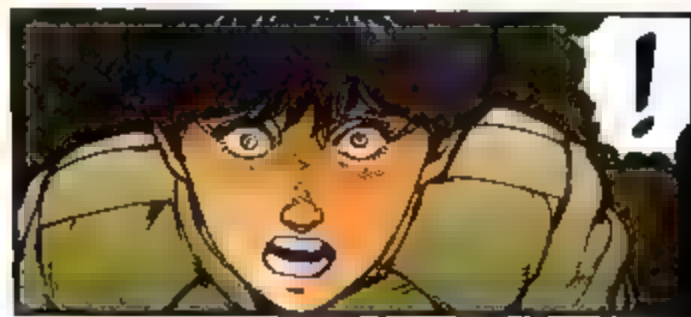


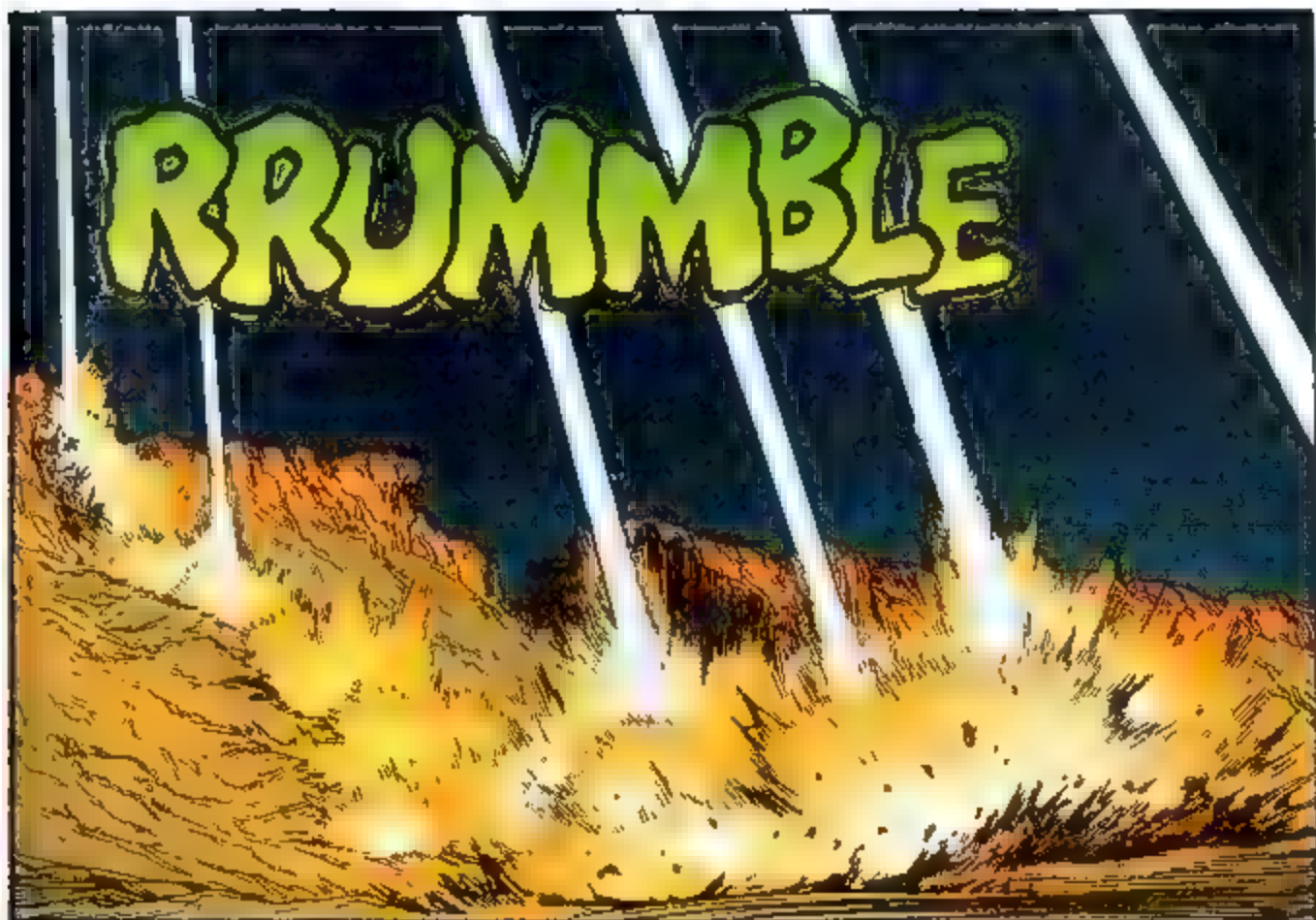


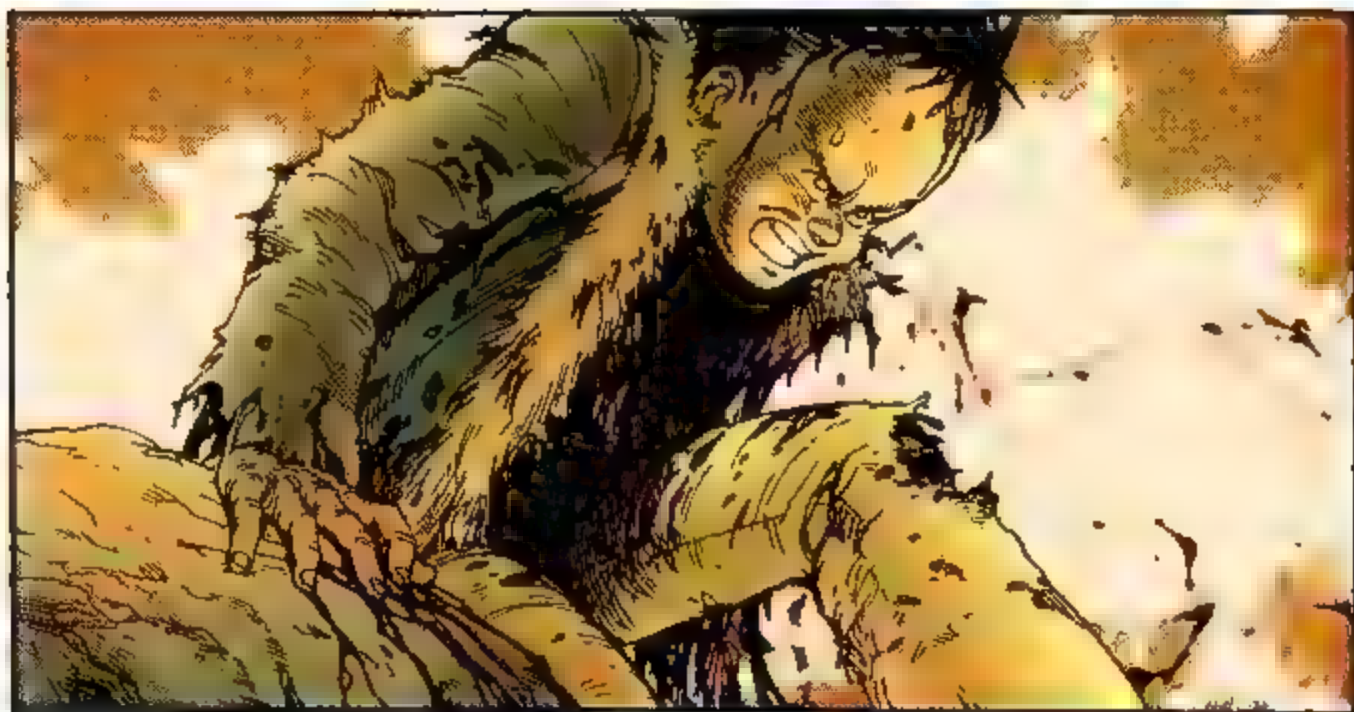


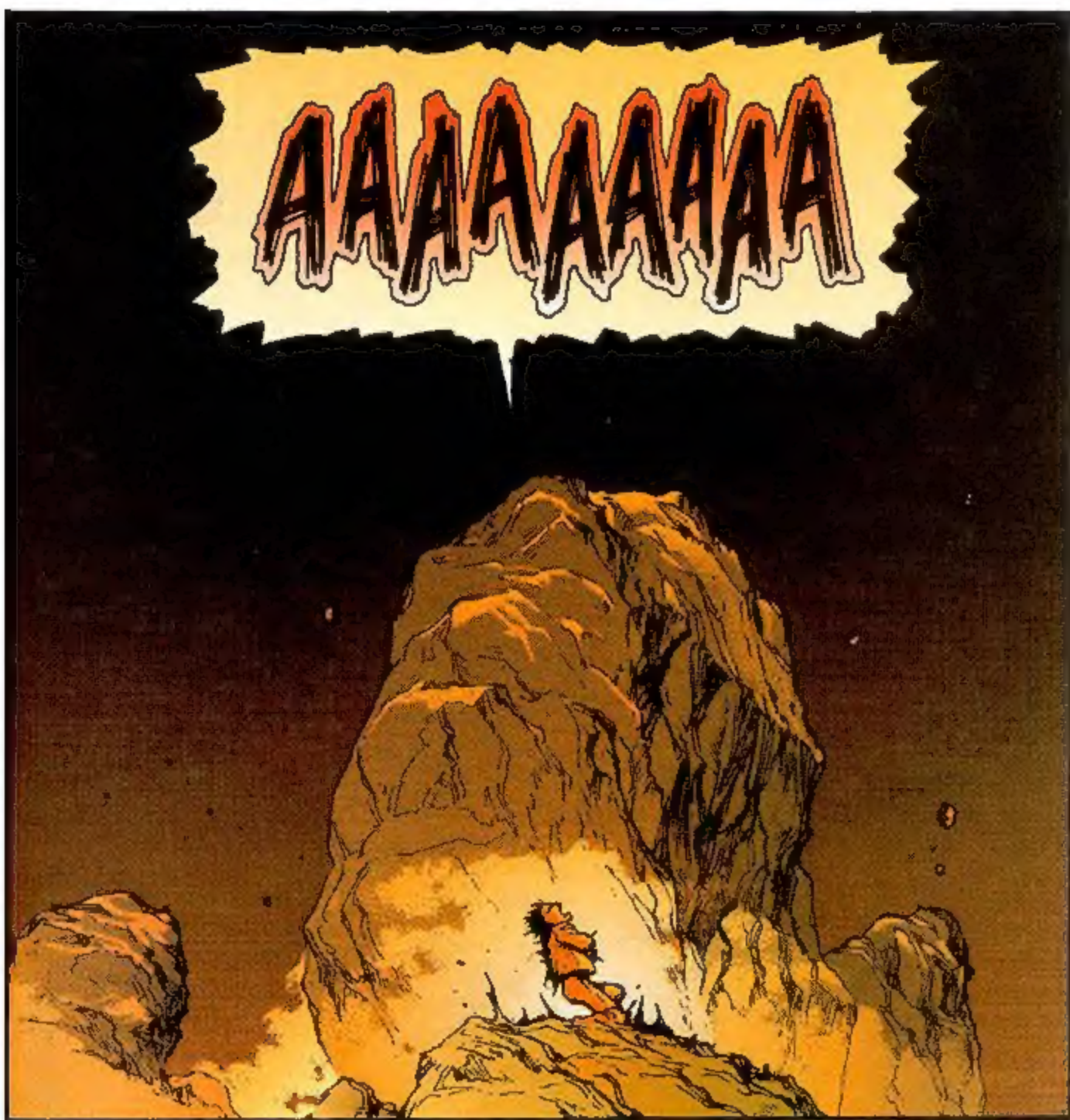












OTOMO

KATSUHIRO



One would imagine from the pure size of a volume of Akira that Katsuhiro Otomo would have no time left for anything else—not so. This month in your favorite comic store you should be able to find a beautiful book called **Otomo Katsuhiro Artwork—Kaba.**

It is a collection from the incredibly wide-ranging work that Otomo has done over the years. This particular piece is from a story called *Farewell to Weapons*. What is really interesting to us here is the story page (which originally appeared in *Young Magazine* under the title *Buki yo Saraba.*) is already “westernized.” The sound effects were translated and balloon shapes changed to horizontals. The easy transition of the art gives you a feel for how comics are the international language.



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chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

MAKOTO SHIOSAKI

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HIROSHI HIRATA

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managing editor • New York

Epic Comics

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editor

ARCHIE GOODWIN

editor in chief

AKIRA—a small sleepy child awakens from a thirty-eight year long sleep. He stumbles hesitantly to the person who woke him—Tetsuo. From the chamber that has held Akira a deadly cold wave rushes forth flooding tunnels around the site. The cold extinguishes the life from all it touches, but it is only fitting justice for its victims are the ones who have helped keep Akira asleep...entombed...stealing a part of his life. Akira stumbles away from his almost tomb, seeking only the lovely warmth, following Tetsuo up to the bright blinding light of the sun. Across Neo-Tokyo the civilian defense claxon sounds, people scrambling for shelter. What do they fear? It is only a child waking from a nap...

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

